

Chapter 5

Using Computer Corpora in Primary School

ABSTRACT

This chapter will provide information and data about primary schools and its teachers who participated in the research. The chapter will show in-depth interviews with teachers from two primary schools in Croatia. The purpose of the in-depth interview is to research and analyze teacher needs, opinions, attitudes, values, and knowledge about computer corpora in general. The second goal is to explore in which way teachers in primary schools would use computer corpora for creating teaching materials, exams, or language exercise. The aim of this chapter is to investigate if computer corpora can be implemented in primary schools for teaching language subjects and in which way and for what students/grades it would be most eligible.

USING COMPUTER CORPORA IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

This chapter will provide detailed information about use of computer corpora in primary education level for creating educational materials for students from age 10 to 14.

Education and teacher training agency¹ in Croatia on their official website has published official document² in which is explained Croatian educational system for primary and secondary schools. According to Education and teacher training agency Croatian educational system starts with first grade of primary school which is mandatory for all children. Primary school is for

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-3680-3.ch005

children between 6 and 15 years of age and it lasts for eight years. During this period students are acquiring knowledge and abilities for continuing education in secondary school.

It is divided into two parts, lower primary school which lasts for four years (from 1st grade to 4th grade) and high primary school which lasts for another four years (from 5th grade to 8th grade). Student age in lower primary school is between 6 and 9 years and in high primary school the age is between 10 and 15 years. This research was conducted with two teachers who are working with students in high primary level school and their students age is approximately between 10 and 15 years.

After students finish primary school they have possibility to continue their education in secondary school which are not mandatory. All students have equal rights to enrol in the first grade of secondary school in line with number of enrolment places which is determinate by the decision of Ministry of Education, Science and Sports in Croatia. Secondary schools in Croatia are divided to gymnasium, vocational and art schools. Gymnasium school lasts for four years and it ends with final state test. In vocational schools education last between one and five years and it ends with term paper which student have to elaborate. Students who finish vocational school can take state test and gain higher level of qualification. Gymnasium prepare their students for continuing their education (to enrol to university), vocational school train their students for labour market and art schools provide students with knowledge, capabilities and creativity in different art fields.

In research participated two teachers, one teacher teaches Croatian as first language and literacy, second teaches English as second language. Teachers did not use computer corpora in their line of work, and they did not search them before this research was conducted. During this research they were introduced with available corpora through user interface NoSketch Engine where they search, and filter concordance lines based on their quires. They used Croatian National Corpus, Croatian Web Corpus and British Web Corpus.

Identity of the involved teachers will be protected, and they will remain anonymous. When describing their thoughts, citations and all relevant materials they will be referred as teacher AP and teacher BP. Teacher AP teaches Croatian as first language and literacy in primary school Horvati in Zagreb (capital city of Croatia) and teacher BP teaches English as second language in primary school Ksavera Šandora Đalskog in Donja Zelina. This chapter is divided into two main section, first section is named Case 1 and

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