

Title: The New Generation of Polish Textbooks and the Classroom

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Although still a less commonly taught language in the US, recent political and economic changes in Poland have made Polish a more popular foreign language choice among students who are not of Polish descent. The increased diversity of the Polish classroom population (i.e. learners with different proficiency levels enrolled in one group) poses challenges for the instructor with regard to course objectives, method, and design, as well as choice and organization of teaching materials.

This paper provides a critical description and analysis of a series of recently published textbooks for Polish language instruction. The author will review the textbooks in sufficient detail to make it easier for the teaching profession to identify titles that may fit instructional needs. Considering the lack of texts for heritage speakers, the author will suggest ways to supplement existing textbooks with a wide variety of suitable materials and activities addressing the specific needs of heritage learners to develop and refine functional competence in the four skills and increase accuracy in a range of themes and registers.