

Script
Old books in schools
STV, Kosice, Slovakia

Intro: A student of the Gymnasium in Bratislava has found out, that the books of Slovak language they use are from the 80'1. That means from the communist times. And that means f.ex. that books advice how to work out the socialistic pledge, cadre reference or how to evaluate the activities of Young Socialistic Union. The students protest, but there are no money for new books

Reporter: Zuzana Kostelniková
Camera: Martin Stelbaský
Editor: Martin Stelbaský
Sound: Rastislav Gavlik

Duration: 4'00

Translation Old Books

Picture 1

Corridors in school, silence.

Picture 2

Tomáš and Tibor in front of the camera.

title: Tomáš, student, 17 years

title: Tibor, student, 16 years

Picture 3

Pictures from both books, we clearly see words *propaganda, straníckosť = party line, names of authors with years 1983 and 1996, greeting of comrades, and the change of title Collective Socialistic Pledge into Collective Pledge*

Picture 4

Boys into camera with more pictures from the book

Picture 5

students into camera

0'01 commentary

Silence of the classes. Normal thing? Students Tibor and Tomáš say there's something absurd going on.

ITW

0'08 Tomáš:

This is our book of Slovak language. It was issued before we were born.

Tibor:

And this is its new version which was issued in 90-ties. They look the same from outside.

Tomáš:

Unfortunately from inside as well.

0'19 commentary

14 years after the fall of communism students are still taught to make propaganda, how to greet comrades properly or to act according to party's needs. Reedition of this book from 90-ties was made by the same team of authors. The only change, omitting of the words „communitic“ and „socialistic“, was made. As to the information, the book staid in the „dark ages“

ITW

0'35 Tibor:

For example, we learn this: automat due to the telephonic order will itself find the information and will bring it to the orderer's television. It will be necessary to create such machines which not only translate the words but „understand“ the meaning of the whole sentence to automatize the reportation.

0'49 Tomáš:

The centre of technical – scientific information of socialistic countries is being discussed. If you don't know what I'm talking about, that's how our book explains the Internet.

Vox Pops

0'58 girl:

When we found something like this in the book mostly we laughet at it. But I think that our generation don't understand it, who was Gustáv Husák or so... I have no idea what does it mean.

1'14 boy 1

I don't mind there are stupid things written in the book. It has the same duty as before and if I'm not interested in the politics or some ideas, it doesn't matter what's written there. Important is that it explains what is report and that's it.

Picture 5

Both books are thrown on the desk as a kind of jingel into music

Picture 6

headmaster of gymnazium into camera
title: PhDr. Stanislav Šanta, Headmaster of Gymnazium in Prešov

Picture 7

Part of the e-mail from Ministry written in red letters:

The problem is insufficient background of authors and financial guaranty of buying of the books from the side of Ministry of Education.

Eva Danišová

Picture 8

Headmaster into camera

Picture 9

Lesson of Slovak language in class

Picture 10

Teacher into camera
title: PhDr. Tatiana Farkašová, teacher of Slovak language
with more images from the lesson

Picture 11

Headmaster into camera

Picture 12

Boys sitting on the desk, holding books in their hands

Both books – we see the name of former

1'34 boy 2

When they had money for this before they should have done it properly. I don't know if it's possible to do something about it now when there are no money in the state...

ITW

1'50 headmaster:

Such a long time after revolution these books have lost their basis... It's very sad that after such a long time these books were not withdrawn from distribution and replaced by the books which would be suitable to today's needs.

2'12 commentary

What's more, there's not enough of the new books. To the official agency named Ad Rem, offers are sent from the Ministry of Education. From there we recieved the explanation:

The problem is insufficient background of authors and financial guaranty of buying of the books from the side of Ministry of Education.

ITW

2'26 headmaster:

I think that reeditions of the books were made very quickly. From what I've seen in these books, they contains a lot of information which is not valid anymore.

2'42 commentary

Books don't motivate anybody. How do teachers prepare for their lessons?

ITW

2'46 teacher:

The book is just partial help for teacher, it's not tragedy for us, teachers. It's more about students. If they read the book at home and find such sentences and problems which definitely should not be in the book... This is not the way to gain the trust of young people.

ITW

4'14 headmaster:

As fas as I know there are not other books of Slovak language on the marked which could replace the old ones. But if there's new offer we will immediatly bring the new books to school.

ITW

3'32 Tibor:

I think it was badly done work, new book was written by the same people and the texts are nearly the same .

president Gustáv Husák in the example of speech in old book and the same speech without the president's name in new one.

Tomáš straight into camera

3'41 Tomáš:

I think it's ridiculous. We read about some congress of Communist party and speeches of Gustáv Husák.

Well, I'd like to try to live in communism for one day, just to know what's this all about. According to what I've heard it had to be funny era.

These two books are suitable for History lessons or as some historical artefact but not as books of Slovak language.

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