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INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF READING PREFERENCES OF YOUNGER SCHOOL AGE READERS AT PRIMARY SCHOOL

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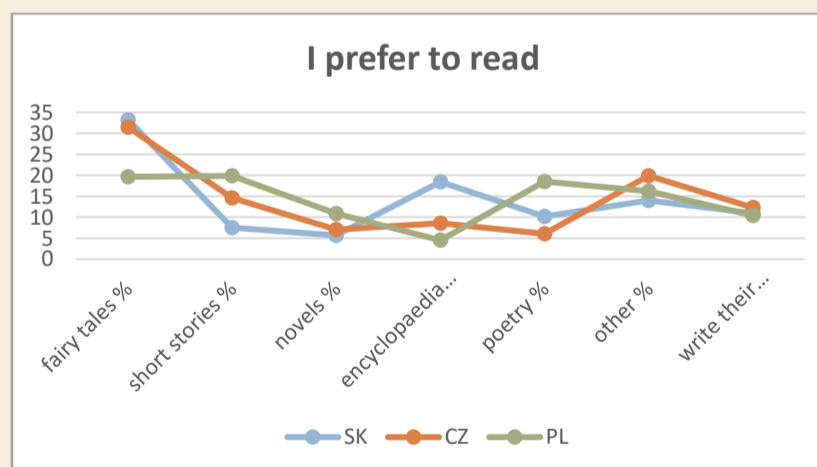
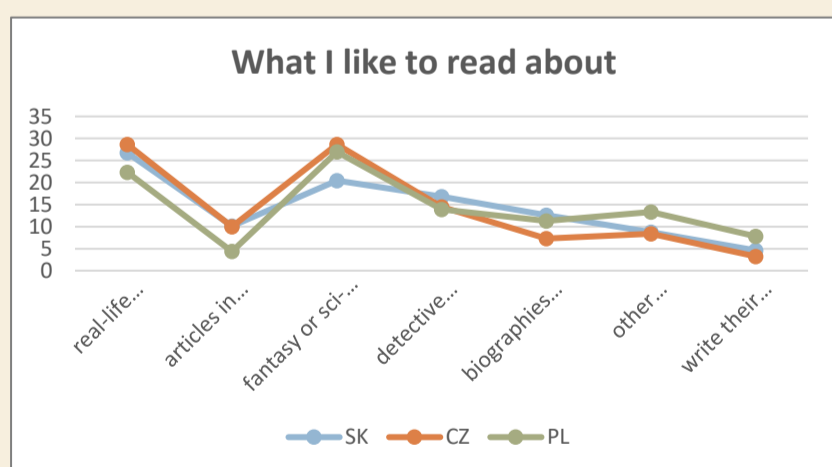


Introduction

Reading is a key phenomenon of intellectual-emotional education and success of every individual resulting into social, economic and cultural level of society. The reading crisis is global and is being watched with considerable attention around the world. The child reader's appetite is the key to form the reader's interest defined in 3 degrees of intensity: 1. neutral reading interest, 2. reading for pleasure and 3. reading enthusiasm. The suitability of the content meaning, topics, their artistic processing and the form of the literary genre are important factors in the structural concept of the child's reading interest considering: the frequency of reading, the effect of reading, the typology of literature, a spectrum of specific literary genres, literary themes and literary heroes. Research results from 2008 show that if child readers masters reading skills well, then, at the age of 8-9 years, they enter the phase of enthusiastic reading. In contrast, the National Kids and Family Reading Report from 2019 stated that a decline in child reading interest occurs much more earlier than at the age of 10 – 11 years (in accordance of former research findings) by 15% - 20% on average around the age of 8 to 9 years. This continues to decline over every two-year period continues towards the pubescent period within reading development.

Results

The research findings showed significant differences in preferences of the some literary genres among the triplets of national groups of Slovak, Czech and Polish readers at younger school - age. Polish readers defined themselves with the highest preference in reading of poems, significantly differently from Slovak and Czech readers. Czech readers choose poetry least. The highest preference in reading of encyclopedia was showed among Slovak readers. Polish readers showed significantly less reading of fairy tales than the other groups. Slovaks read short stories much less than Czech and Polish readers. Fantasy and sci-fi stories are popular among all national groups of readers in general. Overall, the lack of interest in reading of magazine articles, legends and fables was manifested with all groups. The part of qualitative research findings based on questionnaire-opened answers showed surprisingly the most popularity of foreign authors at the expense of national authors among readers of all groups. The dominated authors were J. R. Rowling, D. Walliams, A. Lindgren and R. Dahl. This pointed out not only on global influence of media, but at universal literature content of the same- aged readers cross regions.



Conclusion

Polish readers are more oriented towards short stories and novels, poetry while Slovak readers prefer encyclopedias. Czech readers gave the lowest level of preference towards poetry of all the national groups. The results of international measurements in reading literacy PIRLS are better for Polish readers and correlate with the diversity of literature genres that they prefer. Research findings are particularly important for teachers, who should fundamentally change their attitudes towards reading in primary education. This international comparison pointed out on one of the fundamental topics for innovations to the educational process and projecting leisure reading activities leading to improvement of reading literacy.

Acknowledgements

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