

THE USE OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE IN ALL AREAS

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Abstract

The German language occupies an important position worldwide and is used in numerous social, economic, scientific and cultural areas. This thesis comprehensively examines the use of the German language in various sectors and sheds light on its function as a means of communication, scientific language and cultural carrier. Particular attention will be paid to the influence of globalisation, digitalisation and international cooperation. The aim is to present the relevance of the German language in the 21st century in a differentiated way and to show perspectives for its future development.

Introduction

The German language is one of the ten most widely spoken languages in the world and is one of the most important official languages in the European Union. With over 100 million native speakers in Europe and millions more learners worldwide, it is not only an important cultural and scientific language, but also an economic and diplomatic tool. This academic work is dedicated to a comprehensive analysis of the role of German in various areas of society. It examines how language has developed over the course of history, what functions it fulfils today and what potential it holds for the future. Particular attention is paid to the interdisciplinarity of the German language and its presence in education, business, science, technology, law, culture and the media.

The historical development of the German language The German language developed from the West Germanic language branch and can look back on a history of more than a thousand years. From Old High German to Middle High German to New High German, social, political and cultural developments are reflected in the history of language. The Reformation, especially Martin Luther's translation of the Bible, played a central role in the standardization and dissemination of the written German language. In the 19th century, German became the leading language of science before it was partially replaced by English after the Second World War. Nevertheless, the German language remained strongly anchored in many areas.

German in science and research The German language has a long tradition as a language of science. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, she was a leader in many disciplines, including philosophy, physics, chemistry, and medicine. Scientists such as Albert Einstein, Max Planck and Sigmund Freud published their works in German. Today, English is dominant, but in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, numerous scientific publications continue to be published in German, especially in the humanities and social sciences. Research institutions such as the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer Institutes or the Leibniz Association promote German-language research. In addition, German is often used in international cooperation, especially in Europe.



German as a business language Germany is the largest economy in Europe and the fourth largest in the world. Accordingly, German is an important language of trade. Many international companies maintain business relationships with German-speaking countries, which makes knowledge of the German language an economic advantage. German is used as a corporate language in numerous multinational corporations such as Siemens, Bosch, Volkswagen or SAP. In addition, Germany is a major exporter of machinery, vehicles and chemical products – industries in which technical communication is often carried out in German. Language competence in German opens up access to a large job market in the DACH region (Germany, Austria, Switzerland).

German in technology and engineering The German language plays an important role in the technical field. Technical documentation, operating instructions, patent specifications and standards are often written in German. German-speaking universities offer numerous engineering courses in which German is the language of instruction. Technical universities such as RWTH Aachen University or the Technical University of Munich enjoy a high international reputation. Many international students choose to study in Germany, where German language skills are required or strongly recommended. German also has a firm place in international standardization (e.g. DIN standards).

German in medicine and pharmacy In the medical field, German is an important language, especially in Europe. Germany and Switzerland are leaders in medical research and patient care. Many medical journals are published in German. In addition, many foreign doctors and nurses decide to work in German-speaking countries, which requires sound language skills. Medical communication, patient discussions and documentation are often carried out in standardised technical German.

German in Law and Administration German is the official language of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein. In the European Union, German is one of 24 official languages and is used in the preparation of legal acts, treaties and official documents. In administration, German is essential for communication, documentation and the application of the law. The German language also plays a central role in legal education – legal terms, judgments and legal texts are linguistically highly complex and precisely formulated.

German in culture, literature and media The German language is an important cultural asset. Numerous writers, poets and philosophers have shaped Europe's cultural heritage through works in German – including Goethe, Schiller, Kafka, Brecht, Kant, Hegel and Nietzsche. German also has a strong position in the field of contemporary literature and media. German books, films, plays and music reach an international audience. In addition, German-language media companies such as Deutsche Welle, Der Spiegel and Süddeutsche Zeitung are important sources of information in an international context.– a balancing act that requires a high level of professionalism and reflective practice.



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