

Dominican Representation in Introductory Level Spanish Textbooks in the United States

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Abstract : This research project investigates the representation of Dominicans and Dominican culture in nine widely-used Spanish textbooks in universities and colleges in the United States. The project uses the “culture” standard established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages to examine the texts. The organization, commonly referred to by its acronym ACTFL, describes products as books, tools, foods, laws, music, and games; practices as patterns of social interactions; and perspectives as meanings, attitudes, values, and ideas. The content analysis of the texts will also specifically include visual analysis of the physical representation of the people depicted in Dominican-themed culture activities to more clearly integrate issues of color and national identity into the discussion.

Keywords : blackness, culture, Dominican republic, foreign language education, national identity, Spanish, textbooks

Conference Title : ICHA 2023 : International Conference on Humanities and Arts

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : May 11-12, 2023