

THE DIDACTIC TACKLING OF THE CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE TEXTBOOKS AND STUDENTS CONCEPTIONS ABOUT IT THE GEOGRAPHY TEXTBOOK OF THE FIRST YEAR BACCALAUREATE AS A MODEL

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ABSTRACT_ this study aimed at shedding light on the importance of geography as a school subject in delivering the discourse of development through the textbook of the first year baccalaureate. Hence, it focused on the importance of geography as a fundamental basis in the mental and social formation of the younger generation, starting from real life situations of the individual and the group so that they can be put in the picture with regards to the mechanisms of the geographical area and the role of the human being as an actor in it; this is through the role played by geography –along with other subjects- in incorporating the concept of development and its values so that it becomes an applied practical attitude. This should be done with a view to making the learner able to introduce social changes and to face the problems and issues present in his / her surroundings.

The study didn't just seek to look for the way in which the geography textbook tackles the concept of development and the criteria implemented in dealing with such a concept. It was rather more comprehensive, involving students' knowledge regarding the concept of development by filling a field questionnaire. The latter included sections about students' knowledge concerning this concept. The study revealed that the concept of development was present in the two problematic units of the course book of the aforementioned level. However, this presence is often just implicit. The study also showed that defining the concept of development is accomplished through certain statistic indexes (quantitative approach). As for students background knowledge about this concept, they appeared to vary according to the variables of gender and scholarly specialty. Based on the results of this study and being aware of the importance of education and its role in establishing the concept of development, the study, of course, came up with some recommendations and suggestions that we consider essential in any didactic approach aiming to establish this concept amongst the younger generation.

Keywords: Didactic tackling (handling), Conceptions, Development.