

Sprachmittlung, Arbeiten von Schülerinnen und Schülern

Task: Mediation

Your African friend Onyeka has been studying Chinua Achebe at the University of Lagos and he knows you have studied Achebe as well. He has therefore asked you to summarise this passage in English because he needs it for his studies. Write an informal letter (~200 words).

Mediation 1 (RH)	Correction
Chinua Achebe is of course not the only person, who sees a problem in the situation of being “caught between two cultures” after colonization in Africa. The famous German Doctor Albert Schweitzer wrote about this topic, too in his novel “Between water and forest” in which he describes his experiences. Schweitzer claims that with the appearance of European knowledge the old traditions of the Africans are in danger to disappear.	
Instead of learning from the natives, their children are getting taught by the Europeans. Of course, it is a nice thing to “see the world from an other point of view” but it is dangerous, too. Because now the knowledge about the traditions get lost by the young natives which now learn how to speak, write and think like an European.	
Schweitzer gives the example of a young native, complaining about being more intellectual than the native women and combines this with the problem that they “know to less to be the wives of intellectual natives” are in a tricky situation... Because they don't really belong to their old villages but they also don't “belong” to the Europeans! So it is an awful situation, just like Achebe shows in his story “Dead Men's Path”: The new headmaster Michael Obi disturbs his job and the school, too by not respecting the culture of his own country! (225 words)	
Mediation 2 (MS)	Correction
Dear Onyeka, I am very pleased with the fact that I am able to help you with your studies of Chinua Achebe. In the following, I will give you a brief summary of the passage from Albert Schweitzer's “Between water and jungle” that you requested me to do.	
In this particular passage called “the problem of emancipation”, the German and French doctor discusses the controversial question of social and educational emancipation of the indigenous African peoples on their way trying to achieve a higher status of culture.	
For Schweitzer, the beginning of cultural development is not marked by immediate higher education for the unindustrialised native peoples but by their individual manufactural and agricultural activities. At the same moment, he describes the government's and the economy's need for skilled labour, which requires high quality education.	
Schweitzer notices a new class of people resulting from these circumstances, who are caught between their native environment and their acquired status of high education. Schweitzer therefore lists examples of such conflicts that he has experienced during his travels like workers living in factories and being torn apart from their villages and not being able to adjust to their new prosperity and wealth, which leads to the waste of money. The new educated class has even problems finding partners, according to Schweitzer, because they are caught between their old culture and white influences.	
Towards the end of the passage, Schweitzer mentions the incline of social problems caused by European imports to Africa. He describes cheap European industrial goods replacing traditional African manufacturing and hereby destroying the tradition of native manufacturing, a fundament that is bitterly needed as a fundament trying to build up a path to culture.	
I hope I could help you with your studies and hope to hear from you soon Yours, N. N. (298 words)	

ARBEITSAUFTRAG

- (EA)** Lesen Sie die Texte arbeitsteilig und beurteilen Sie (s. Handout) den Aspekt der Sprachmittlung, d. h. inwieweit
- die vorgegebene kommunikative Situation beachtet wird, z. B. der Adressatenbezug,
 - die Inhalte des Originaltexts wiedergegeben werden,
 - interkulturelle Aspekte berücksichtigt werden.

Halten Sie für beide Arbeiten jeweils für eine runde Note die entsprechenden Felder bzw. für Zwischenwerte die Bereiche dazwischen

(PA) Vergleichen Sie Ihre jeweiligen Ergebnisse mit denen einer zweiten Zweiergruppe.