

Summary of the thesis

The subject of the doctoral dissertation is the analysis of a Polish sail training education concept "Class Afloat" ("Szkółka pod Żaglami") on the example of Krzysztof Baranowski's project: "Around the World with a Helping Hand". Where to place this concept in the Polish pedagogical context and background of adventure education? The starting point for contemporary research was an extensive analysis of the roots, cultural context and even the semantic concept of maritime education ("wychowanie morskie"), and showing significant differences between its understanding in Poland and in Anglo-Saxon countries. An in-depth look at the origins of the concept of Class Afloat and a query of a few, so far, studies have allowed me to go beyond the common narrative about the school voyage as an unambiguously positive educational experience.

The conducted analysis revealed the ambiguity of the concept of maritime education and how it should be implemented in practice, as well as the polyphony of various participants of the project – students, teachers and parents. Surprisingly, against the dominant and common narration about the encouraging results of participation in the "Class Afloat", the research did not bring clear conclusions if the voyage had a positive effect on the students' self-esteem, confidence or leadership skills. However, they showed aspects marginalized in the analysis so far, such as complex and important relations between young people and adults, a change in perceiving school as a place of education, the impermanence of peer relationships, the role and perception of discipline. The research analysis clearly shows that the lack of consistency in the understanding of maritime education, and hence the lack of its translation into the overall concept of an educational project, which is the organization of a school on a sailing ship, affects its ambivalent perception by students.

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