

Diplomats and Covid – Eight Years of Teaching Amharic at the German Foreign Ministry

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In my presentation, I will talk about my experiences of teaching Amharic at the Language Teaching Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin. Since 2016, I have been teaching Amharic to diplomats and their partners who were going to work at the German Embassy in Addis Ababa, as well as to other employees of the ministry.

Teaching in this environment differs from language teaching at universities in a number of ways, such as the diverse background of the students, the aim of the language courses, time constraints, and problems with teaching materials. In addition, the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic have led to the introduction and use of online tools for distance learning.

In this presentation, I will describe different aspects of teaching Amharic in a non-academic environment, discuss problems and challenges that are specific to this teaching setting, and present strategies and solutions that were used for distance learning during the Covid pandemic.

The experiences and insights gained from eight years of teaching Amharic to diplomats can contribute to the intended discussions at the workshop in Hamburg.