PROFESORES DE ENSEÑANZA SECUNDARIA · INGLÉS · JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

TEMA

69

Society and Culture. Stereotypes and Emblems of English-Speaking Countries. Song in English as a Vehicle of Cultural Influence

Sociedad y cultura. Estereotipos y emblemas de los países de habla inglesa. La canción en lengua inglesa como vehículo de influencia cultural.

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Material de elaboración propia a partir de las fuentes oficiales que se citan al final del tema. No es un temario oficial ni sustituye a la normativa publicada.

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Fuentes

1. INTRODUCTION

In 1922 the American journalist Walter Lippmann wrote a sentence that every language teacher should keep in mind: "For the most part we do not first see, and then define, we define first and then see." Lippmann was explaining why human beings do not meet the world directly, but through simplified pictures that their culture has prepared for them. Those pictures are what we call stereotypes. Yet the same cultures that produce stereotypes also produce something more deliberate: flags, anthems, seals and statues that a community chooses in order to say who it is. And between the easy simplification and the official symbol there is a third territory, perhaps the most powerful of all: popular song, which carries images, values and language across frontiers without asking permission.

This topic deals precisely with that territory. I will first define the concepts of society, culture and stereotype. Secondly, I will examine the stereotypes of the English-speaking countries; thirdly, their official emblems, with their dates; fourthly, song in English as a vehicle of cultural influence; and finally, the pedagogical and didactic implications for the classroom.

Before moving on, I would like to mention the sources consulted. For the theory of stereotypes I have used Walter Lippmann's Public Opinion (1922). For language and culture, Claire Kramsch's Language and Culture (Oxford University Press, 1998) and Michael Byram's Teaching and Assessing Intercultural Communicative Competence (Multilingual Matters, 1997). For the British national character, Jeremy Paxman's The English: A Portrait of a People (Michael Joseph, 1998), and for popular culture, John Storey's Cultural Theory and Popular Culture (Pearson). The legal framework is the LOMLOE, Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December, with Royal Decrees 217/2022 (ESO) and 243/2022 (Baccalaureate) and their Extremaduran developments, Decrees 110/2022 and 109/2022.