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Some thoughts upon my leaving of the institute

For six weeks I have studied at Grundstufe 1, and before leaving I would like to thank the institute for this interesting and useful course. It has been a pleasure to study at your institute. And as with many things in Germany, your institutes professional attitude, level of organisation and coordination have helped us students to focus on why we came to you in the first place: to learn German. And indeed, we have learned a lot! Actually, we have learned much more than I thought would be possible in this short time. Tangram A1 provides a very useful framework for integrated learning. However, the quality of your teaching staff deserves most tribute, hence writing you this letter.

In the light of the saddening global developments, which seem to be tangled up in a series of miscommunications, the world needs more cultural ambassadors like the two teachers who have taught at this course. Both Frau Berta and Frau Silvia, with their positive attitude and open mind, have managed, in a highly professional way, to convey the joy and importance of *intercultural* (with emphasis on cultural) communication in everyday-life situations. Professionally, I find their modes of teaching very substantial. Both have employed a great variety of teaching methods, which counts from the use of many semiotic, verbal and even kinesthetic resources available. This has been immensely useful and stimulating. Each one has in her own way succeeded in what I believe to be the key of language learning; namely to invoke more than the hearing, speaking and listening organ. More importantly, nevertheless, is their outmost patience, brilliant sense of humor and their interest in facilitating meaningful exchange – despite all linguistic inabilities and constraints.

Not only will I go back to my country with a notebook full of glosses, discourse information as well as methodological observations. I will go home feeling that I have taken part in a very special event. And I am immensely grateful to my two teachers who have opened the door ajar into the vastness of German culture. I wanted the institute to know that I am deeply impressed and very grateful.

Thank you very much.

Best regards  
Tonje Raddum

