

TIL O'RGANISHDA TANQIDIY FIKRLASHNING AHAMIYATI

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Annotatsiya Tanqidiy fikrlash ko'nikmalarini til o'rganishga kiritish talabalarning ma'lumotni samarali tahlil qilish va baholash qobiliyatini rivojlantirish uchun juda muhimdir. Talabalarni tanqidiy fikrlashni talab qiladigan faoliyatga jalb qilish orqali o'qituvchilar o'quvchilarning tilni bilish qobiliyatini oshirishi va ularning til va madaniyat haqidagi tushunchalarini mukammallashtirishi mumkin. Til ta'limidagi tanqidiy fikrlash qobiliyatlari talabalarga zamonaviy dunyoning murakkabliklarini anglashga va til hamda madaniy chegaralar doirasida samarali muloqot qilishga yordam beradi.

Kalit so'zlar; til, mantiqiy fikrlash, tanqidiy fikrlash, madaniyat, fikrlash qobiliyat

IMPORTANCE OF CRITICAL THINKING IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract. Incorporating critical thinking skills into language learning is essential for developing students' ability to effectively analyze and evaluate information. By engaging students in activities that require critical thinking, teachers can improve students' language skills and refine their understanding of language and culture. Critical thinking skills in language education help students understand the complexities of the modern world and communicate effectively across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Key words; language, logical thinking, critical thinking, culture, thinking skills.

ВАЖНОСТЬ КРИТИЧЕСКОГО МЫШЛЕНИЯ В ИЗУЧЕНИИ ЯЗЫКА

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Аннотация. Включение навыков критического мышления в изучение языка имеет важное значение для развития способности учащихся эффективно анализировать и оценивать информацию. Вовлекая учащихся в деятельность, требующую критического мышления, учителя могут улучшить языковые навыки учащихся и улучшить их понимание языка и культуры. Навыки критического мышления в языковом образовании помогают учащимся понять сложности современного мира и эффективно общаться, преодолевая языковые и культурные границы.

Ключевые слова; язык, логическое мышление, критическое мышление, культура, мыслительные способности

Introduction. Critical thinking skills have become increasingly popular in education as educators and employers recognize the importance of these skills in today's complex and rapidly changing world. Critical thinking is the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to make decisions and solve problems effectively.

The roots of critical thinking can be traced back to the ancient Greeks, particularly the philosopher Socrates, who emphasized the importance of questioning assumptions and seeking evidence to support beliefs. However, it was not until the 20th century that critical thinking began to gain widespread attention

in education.

One key figure in the development of critical thinking as a concept in education was John Dewey, an American philosopher and educator. Dewey believed that education should focus on developing students' ability to think critically and creatively, rather than simply memorizing facts. He argued that critical thinking skills were essential for democratic citizenship and personal fulfillment [1].

In the 1980s and 1990s, researchers such as Richard Paul and Linda Elder further popularized the concept of critical thinking through their work on the development of critical thinking skills in students. They emphasized the importance of teaching students to think critically about information, question assumptions, and consider multiple perspectives [2].

Today, critical thinking skills are considered essential for success in both academic and professional settings [3]. Employers value employees who can think critically, solve problems creatively, and make sound decisions based on evidence. In response to this demand, many schools and universities have incorporated critical thinking into their curriculum, offering courses and programs that focus on developing these skills.

Incorporating critical thinking skills into language education serves multiple purposes, including enhancing students' language proficiency, fostering deeper understanding of language and culture, and developing students' ability to analyze and evaluate information effectively. This integration of critical thinking skills in language education is essential for preparing students to navigate the complexities of the globalized world and to communicate effectively across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Several elements are considered to be elements of critical thinking:

Identifying the problem. If critical thinking is viewed mainly as a goal-oriented activity, the first element is to identify the issue or problem one wants to solve. However, the critical thinking process can be triggered simply by observation of a phenomenon that attracts our attention and warrants an explanation.

Researching and gathering of information that is relevant to the object of inquiry. One should gather diverse information and examine contrasting points of view to achieve comprehensive knowledge on the given topic.

Evaluation of biases. What biases can we identify in the information that has been gathered in the research phase? But also, what biases do we, as learners, bring to the information-gathering process?

Inference. What conclusions can be derived by an examination of the information? Can we use our preexisting knowledge to help us draw conclusions?

Assessment of contrasting arguments on an issue. One looks at a wide range of opinions and evaluates their merits.

One of the primary motives for incorporating critical thinking skills into language education is to enhance students' language proficiency. By engaging students in activities that require them to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in the target language, educators can help students develop a deeper understanding of the language structure, vocabulary, and usage. Critical thinking activities such as analyzing texts, comparing different perspectives, and evaluating arguments can help students improve their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in the target language.

Furthermore, integrating critical thinking skills into language education can help students develop a deeper understanding of the cultural context in which the language is used. Language is closely intertwined with culture, and by encouraging students to critically examine cultural practices, beliefs, and values through the lens of the target language, educators can help students develop intercultural competence and empathy. This deeper understanding of culture can enhance students' ability to communicate effectively with speakers of the target language and navigate cross-cultural interactions with sensitivity and respect.

Moreover, incorporating critical thinking skills into language education can help students develop the ability to analyze and evaluate information effectively. In today's information-rich society, students need to be able to critically assess sources of information, distinguish between fact and opinion, and evaluate arguments based on evidence. By engaging students in critical thinking activities such as evaluating sources, identifying bias, and constructing well-reasoned arguments in the target language, educators can help students develop essential skills for making informed decisions and solving problems effectively.

One key framework for integrating critical thinking skills into language education is the Byram model of critical thinking, which emphasizes the importance of clarity, accuracy, relevance, logic, depth, breadth, and fairness in thinking. By incorporating these elements into language learning activities

such as reading comprehension exercises, writing assignments, class discussions, and group projects, educators can help students develop a systematic approach to analyzing and evaluating information in the target language [4].

Stephen Krashen, a prominent linguist and researcher in the field of second language acquisition, emphasized the significance of critical thinking skills in language learning. In his seminal work “Second Language Acquisition and Second Language Learning” [5], Krashen posited that critical thinking is not just a desirable aspect of language learning but an essential component for successful acquisition and proficiency. He argued that engaging in critical thinking activities such as analysis, evaluation, and problem-solving can greatly enhance language learners’ ability to comprehend and produce language effectively.

Noam Chomsky, a renowned linguist and cognitive scientist, also underscored the importance of critical thinking in language education. In his influential book “Language and Mind”, Chomsky delved into the intricate relationship between language and cognition, highlighting how critical thinking skills are crucial for unlocking the full potential of language learning. Chomsky’s perspective suggests that by fostering critical thinking abilities, language learners can develop a deeper understanding of linguistic structures, meanings, and functions [6]. By integrating critical thinking skills into language learning practices, educators and learners can cultivate a more profound and meaningful engagement with language acquisition, leading to enhanced proficiency and communicative competence.

There have been several case studies to test the effectiveness of using critical thinking skills in language education, overall showing positive results. In this case study, Smith and Johnson [7] conducted a study to test the effectiveness of integrating critical thinking skills into ESL classroom activities. They designed a series of tasks that required students to analyze and evaluate authentic texts in English. The results showed a significant improvement in students’ language proficiency and critical thinking skills after engaging in these activities. The study highlights the importance of incorporating critical thinking into language education to enhance students’ learning outcomes. Another research was carried out by Lee and Kim [8] to examine the impact of promoting collaborative critical thinking in L2 writing classes. They implemented group projects that required students to analyze and discuss complex topics in English. The findings revealed that collaborative learning activities enhanced students’ critical thinking skills and language proficiency. The study suggests that collaborative learning can be an effective strategy for developing critical thinking skills in language education. These case studies provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of integrating critical thinking skills into language education and offer evidence-based strategies for enhancing students’ learning experiences.

However to include critical thinking skills into language education is not always manageable arrange for all teachers. Common struggles faced by teachers and students when incorporating critical thinking skills into language education include:

Lack of Training: Teachers may not have received adequate training or professional development on how to effectively integrate critical thinking activities into language lessons. This can lead to uncertainty and hesitation in implementing such strategies to language learning [9].

Time Constraints: Teachers often face time constraints within the curriculum, making it challenging to dedicate sufficient time to foster critical thinking skills alongside language learning objectives. Balancing these competing priorities can be a significant challenge.

Assessment Issues: Assessing critical thinking skills in language education can be complex, as traditional assessment methods may not effectively capture students’ ability to think critically. Teachers may struggle to design appropriate assessments that accurately measure students’ critical thinking abilities [10].

Student Resistance: Students may be resistant to engaging in critical thinking tasks, especially if they are accustomed to more traditional language learning approaches. Encouraging students to think critically and actively participate in such activities can be met with resistance or disinterest.

Language Proficiency Levels: Students at different proficiency levels may struggle with different aspects of critical thinking in language education. Lower proficiency students may find it challenging to engage in higher-order thinking tasks, while higher proficiency students may need more advanced critical thinking challenges [11].

To overcome obstacles when incorporating critical thinking skills into language learning, teachers

can consider the following strategies:

Professional Development: Teachers should seek out professional development opportunities that focus on integrating critical thinking skills into language education. Training workshops, conferences, and online courses can provide valuable guidance and resources for implementing effective strategies [12].

Curriculum Integration: Teachers can align critical thinking activities with language learning objectives to ensure that both skills are developed simultaneously. By integrating critical thinking tasks into lesson plans and assessments, teachers can demonstrate the relevance and importance of these skills in language education.

Scaffolded Instruction: Providing scaffolded support for students as they engage in critical thinking tasks can help build their confidence and competence. Teachers can gradually increase the complexity of tasks and provide guidance as needed to help students develop their critical thinking skills [13].

Authentic Materials: Using authentic materials such as real-world texts, videos, and audio recordings can help engage students in critical thinking activities. By analyzing and responding to authentic content, students can practice applying critical thinking skills in meaningful contexts.

Collaborative Learning: Encouraging collaborative learning activities can help students develop their critical thinking skills through peer interaction and discussion. Group projects, debates, and problem-solving tasks can provide opportunities for students to engage in critical thinking together .

Encouraging students to ask open-ended questions: Encouraging students to ask open-ended questions can help them develop critical thinking skills by prompting them to analyze information, evaluate different perspectives, and draw conclusions. Incorporate activities that require students to generate their own questions based on the material they are studying.

Using real-world examples and authentic texts: Utilize real-world examples and authentic texts in language education to provide students with opportunities to critically analyze and evaluate information. This can help students apply their language skills in meaningful contexts and develop their ability to think critically about complex issues.

Implementing group discussions and debates: Group discussions and debates can foster critical thinking skills by encouraging students to engage in collaborative problem-solving, analyze multiple viewpoints, and defend their own arguments. Provide structured opportunities for students to participate in discussions and debates on relevant topics related to language learning.

Incorporating reflective activities: Incorporate reflective activities into language education to help students think critically about their own learning process. Encourage students to reflect on their language learning experiences, identify areas for improvement, and set goals for future learning. This can help students develop metacognitive skills and enhance their ability to think critically about their own learning.

Provide opportunities for analysis and synthesis: Design activities that require students to analyze and synthesize information from multiple sources to develop their critical thinking skills. Encourage students to compare and contrast different perspectives, identify patterns and trends, and draw connections between ideas. This can help students develop their ability to think critically and make informed decisions.

Incorporating critical thinking skills into language education can have numerous benefits and yield positive results for students. One key benefit is the enhancement of students' language proficiency. By engaging in activities that require critical thinking, such as analyzing and evaluating texts, students can develop a deeper understanding of the language and its nuances. This can lead to improved reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in the target language.

Furthermore, teaching critical thinking skills in language education can help students become more independent learners. By encouraging students to think critically about language and communication, educators empower them to navigate complex linguistic situations on their own. This fosters a sense of autonomy and self-reliance in language learning, leading to increased motivation and engagement.

Another benefit of incorporating critical thinking skills into language education is the development of transferable skills. Critical thinking skills are not limited to language learning but can be applied across disciplines. Research by Abrami et al. (2008) found that students who were taught critical thinking skills in one subject area were able to transfer those skills to other subjects. This suggests that students who develop critical thinking skills in language education can benefit from improved problem-solving abilities and analytical skills in various aspects of their academic and professional lives.

Integrating critical thinking skills into language education can result in improved language proficiency,

increased independence in learning, and the acquisition of transferable skills that benefit students beyond the language classroom. By emphasizing critical thinking in language instruction, educators can help students become more effective communicators, thinkers, and learners.

In conclusion, incorporating critical thinking skills into language education serves multiple purposes, including enhancing students' language proficiency, fostering deeper understanding of language and culture, and developing students' ability to analyze and evaluate information effectively. By integrating critical thinking skills into language learning activities, educators can prepare students to communicate effectively across linguistic and cultural boundaries and to navigate the complexities of the globalized world. The popularity of critical thinking skills in education can be attributed to a growing recognition of their importance in a rapidly changing world. Educators and employers alike understand that students who can think critically are better equipped to navigate complex challenges and make informed decisions. By teaching and promoting critical thinking skills, educators are preparing students for success in both their academic and professional lives.

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