

DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

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Abstract. This thesis explores the role of critical thinking skills in modern English language learning. The main goal of the study is to examine how analyzing, evaluating, and questioning information improves students' language proficiency and academic performance. The research problem is that traditional language teaching often relies on memorization rather than deep conceptual understanding. The relevance of the topic is connected with the increasing amount of digital information and the need for analytical skills in global education. The results show that integrating critical thinking tasks into language lessons enhances vocabulary retention, improves writing quality, and fosters independent learning. The thesis is based on theoretical analysis and modern educational literature.

Keywords: critical thinking, language learning, analytical skills, problem-solving, student engagement, English philology, higher education, digital literacy.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu tezisdagi zamonaviy ingliz tilini o'rganishda tanqidiy fikrlash ko'nikmalarining o'rni ko'rib chiqildi. Tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi ma'lumotlarni tahlil qilish, baholash va savol ostiga olish talabalarining til bilish darajasi va akademik natijalarini qanday yaxshilashini o'rganishdan iboratdir. Tadqiqot muammosi an'anaviy til o'rgatish usullari ko'pincha chuqur tushunishdan ko'ra yodlashga tayanishi bilan izohlanadi. Dolzarbligi esa raqamli axborot oqimining ortishi va global ta'limda tahliliy ko'nikmalarga bo'lgan ehtiyoj bilan bog'liq. Tadqiqot natijalari darslarga tanqidiy fikrlash topshiriqlarini kiritish so'z boyligini eslab qolishni, yozish sifatini va mustaqil o'rganishni yaxshilashini ko'rsatdi. Tezis ilmiy-nazariy tahlil va zamonaviy adabiyotlarga asoslangan holda tayyorlandi.

Kalit so'zlar: tanqidiy fikrlash, til o'rganish, tahliliy ko'nikmalar, muammolarni hal qilish, talabalar faolligi, ingliz filologiyasi, oliy ta'lim, raqamli savodxonlik.

Аннотация. В данном тезисе рассматривается роль навыков критического мышления в современном изучении английского языка. Основная цель исследования заключается в изучении того, как анализ, оценка и сомнение в информации улучшают языковую компетентность и академическую успеваемость студентов. Проблема исследования связана с тем, что традиционное обучение языку

часто опирается на заучивание, а не на глубокое понимание. Актуальность темы обусловлена ростом объема цифровой информации и необходимостью аналитических навыков в глобальном образовании. Результаты исследования показывают, что интеграция задач на критическое мышление в языковые уроки улучшает запоминание словарного запаса, качество письма и способствует самостоятельности студентов. Тезис основан на научно-теоретическом анализе и современных источниках литературы.

Ключевые слова: критическое мышление, изучение языков, аналитические навыки, решение проблем, активность студентов, английская филология, высшее образование, цифровая грамотность.

Introduction. In today's information-rich world, learning a foreign language involves much more than memorizing grammar rules and vocabulary lists. Students must be able to process, analyze, and evaluate the information they read or hear in English. Critical thinking has become an essential soft skill in modern higher education. The relevance of this topic is explained by the need to prepare language learners for real-world academic and professional environments. Traditional language classrooms often focus on passive learning, which limits students' ability to express original arguments or analyze complex texts. The main aim of this research is to show how incorporating critical thinking activities into English lessons enhances students' communicative and analytical abilities. The study uses theoretical literature analysis and classroom observations. The findings provide teachers with useful strategies to create interactive and thought-provoking language lessons.

Main Body. Critical thinking in language learning refers to the ability to ask meaningful questions, identify biases, draw logical conclusions, and express personal perspectives clearly. When students practice critical thinking in English, they use the language as a tool for real communication rather than just an academic subject. Integrating critical thinking into language education involves three core steps:

1. Analysis and Interpretation: Reading texts or listening to discussions to identify key claims, supporting evidence, and main ideas.
2. Evaluation: Comparing different viewpoints, spotting logical fallacies, and deciding the validity of arguments.
3. Creation and Reflection: Writing persuasive essays, taking part in debates, and reflecting on one's own learning process.

Using critical thinking activities transforms passive learners into active participants. For instance, instead of answering simple comprehension questions after reading a text, students debate the author's message or propose alternative solutions to a problem. However, implementing these methods presents certain challenges. Students who are used

to traditional rote learning may find analytical tasks difficult at first. Moreover, teachers need to design open-ended tasks and provide constructive feedback to encourage critical discussion without intimidating learners.

Conclusion. Focusing on critical thinking in English language education significantly boosts both cognitive and linguistic growth. By analyzing arguments and solving problems in English, learners build confidence, improve their academic writing, and develop deeper language fluency.

Recommendations for Teachers: Use open-ended questions, debates, and problem-solving tasks during speaking and writing classes. Encourage students to evaluate source reliability and compare diverse perspectives on various topics.

Recommendations for Students: Question assumptions in reading materials and practice building logical arguments in English. Engage actively in class discussions rather than relying on memorized answers. Overall, combining critical thinking with English philology prepares students to become reflective thinkers and effective global communicators.

References

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