

DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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ANNOTATSIYA: Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilida ikkinchi til o‘rganuvchilar (ELLs) sifatida tanqidiy fikrlash ko‘nikmalarini rivojlantirishning ahamiyati va usullari ko‘rib chiqiladi. Aytish kerakki, tanqidiy fikrlash til o‘rganishning eng samarali va eng kam qo‘llaniladigan usuli hisoblanadi. Tanqidiy fikrlash orqali til o‘rganuvchilar va talabalar qiyinchiliksiz tilning yangi foydalanuvchilariga aylanishadi. Bu til kompetensiyasi va umumiy akademik yutuqlarni yaxshilashda ushbu ko‘nikmalarning muhimligini ta’kidlaydi. Savol berish taktikasini, muammoga asoslangan o‘rganishni va haqiqiy manbalardan foydalanishni amalga oshirish orqali o‘qituvchilar ingliz tilini o‘rganuvchilarga (ELL) tanqidiy fikrlash qobiliyatlarini rivojlantirishga yordam berishlari mumkin. Maqolada qiyinchiliklar ko‘rib chiqiladi va ularni yengishning samarali yo‘llari, ingliz tilini o‘qitishda tanqidiy fikrlashni qo‘shish bo‘yicha yaxlit strategiyani qo‘llab-quvvatlaydi.

Kalit so‘zlar: tanqidiy fikrlash, kompetensiya, haqiqiy manbalar, hamkorlikda o‘rganish, aks ettiruvchi jurnallar.

ANNOTATION: This article examines the importance and methods of developing critical thinking skills in English as a Second Language Learners (ELLs). It should be said that critical thinking is the most effective and least used method of language learning. Through critical thinking, language learners and students become new users of the language effortlessly. This highlights the importance of these skills in improving language competence and overall academic achievement. By implementing questioning tactics, problem-based learning, and using authentic resources, teachers can help English Language Learners (ELLs) develop critical thinking skills. The article examines the challenges and provides effective ways to overcome them, supporting a holistic strategy for incorporating critical thinking into English language teaching.

Key words: critical thinking, competence, authentic resources, collaborative learning, reflective journals.

АННОТАЦИЯ: В данной статье рассматриваются важность и методы развития навыков критического мышления у изучающих английский как второй язык (ELL). Следует сказать, что критическое мышление является наиболее эффективным и наименее используемым методом изучения языка. Благодаря критическому мышлению изучающие язык и студенты без особых усилий становятся новыми пользователями языка. Это подчеркивает важность этих навыков для улучшения языковой компетенции и общих академических достижений. Применяя тактику задавания вопросов, проблемное обучение и используя аутентичные ресурсы, учителя могут помочь изучающим английский язык (ELL) развить навыки критического мышления. В статье рассматриваются проблемы и предлагаются эффективные способы их преодоления, поддерживая целостную стратегию включения критического мышления в преподавание английского языка.

Ключевые слова: критическое мышление, компетентность, аутентичные ресурсы, совместное обучение, рефлексивные журналы.

INTRODUCTION

Amidst the current globalized and fast changing landscape, the ability to think critically has become essential for achieving success in academia, the workplace, and one's personal life. Developing these skills is crucial for English language learners (ELLs) as it not only helps them grasp the language but also enables them to analyze information, make educated decisions, and successfully solve problems. Critical thinking encompasses a variety of mental processes, such as analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information in order to make well-founded judgments. According to Paul and Elder (2008), critical thinking is the practice of analyzing and evaluating one's own thinking in order to enhance its quality.

Within the realm of language instruction, critical thinking abilities empower pupils to beyond the act of memorization and mechanical learning, cultivating a more profound comprehension and admiration for the language. The transition from superficial learning to more profound cognitive involvement is crucial for English Language Learners (ELLs), since they must not only overcome linguistic difficulties but also manage cultural subtleties and scholastic demands in a second language. Halpern (2013) asserts that the cultivation of critical thinking abilities in students

enhances their autonomy as learners, enabling them to challenge assumptions, evaluate other viewpoints, and generate cogent arguments with solid evidence.

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The incorporation of critical thinking into the instruction of English language poses distinctive prospects and difficulties. On one side, it can greatly improve language acquisition and overall academic achievement. However, effectively meeting the many requirements of English Language Learners necessitates meticulous strategizing and execution. This article examines the importance of critical thinking in the context of English language instruction, emphasizes successful methods for cultivating these abilities, and addresses practical ways to overcome typical obstacles. By providing ELLs with the necessary skills to think critically, educators may ensure their preparedness for success in a world that is becoming more intricate and linked.

Developing critical thinking skills allows pupils to beyond basic memorization and mechanical learning, cultivating a more profound comprehension and admiration for the language. The transition from superficial learning to more profound cognitive involvement is crucial for English Language Learners (ELLs), who must not only overcome linguistic difficulties but also manage cultural subtleties and scholastic demands in a second language. Halpern (2013) asserts that the cultivation of critical thinking abilities enables students to enhance their autonomy as learners, enabling them to challenge assumptions, evaluate other viewpoints, and generate cogent and well-substantiated arguments.

Integrating critical thinking into English language teaching offers distinct prospects and difficulties. On one hand, it can greatly improve language acquisition and overall academic achievement. However, effectively meeting the many requirements of English Language Learners (ELLs) necessitates meticulous preparation and execution. This article examines the importance of critical thinking in the context of English language instruction. It emphasizes effective methods for cultivating these skills and addresses practical approaches to overcoming frequent obstacles. By providing ELLs with the necessary skills for critical thinking, educators may ensure their readiness to thrive in a progressively intricate and linked global environment.



Methods for cultivating and enhancing critical thinking abilities

1. Methodology of inquiry – Socratic method of posing questions and seeking answers: Facilitating student engagement in discussion by posing open-ended questions fosters profound cognitive reflection. An instance of this is when students are prompted to analyze the rationale behind the author's decision, which prompts them to contemplate the fundamental components of literature. Queries of this nature enhance cognitive abilities and facilitate language acquisition, hence expanding one's perspective on the world.

2. Bloom's Taxonomy is a hierarchical inquiry approach that aids in enhancing student understanding by progressing from basic memory to higher order thinking. "The story's events are discussed by the question 'What happened in the story?' while the question 'What would you do differently?' prompts a wide range of critical analysis." Interrogations of this nature help maintain children's concentration. It is beneficial to concentrate on the speaker when speaking.

3. Problem-based learning (PBL) is an instructional approach that exposes students to authentic challenges that necessitate critical analysis and the development of solutions. As an illustration, students can be tasked with developing a sustainability plan for their school, conducting research, collaborating with others, and presenting their findings. Examples such as this

4. Discussion and debate - Organized deliberations on a range of subjects provide students with the opportunity to hone their skills in constructing and justifying arguments. This not only enhances linguistic proficiency, but also instructs students in the discerning assessment of various perspectives. Simultaneously, it facilitates the alteration of one's perspective through the application of critical thinking.

5. Utilization of authentic materials - Integrating genuine texts, such as news stories and scientific reports, into lessons stimulates students to critically examine and combine knowledge from many sources. This practice enables students to utilize their language skills in a pragmatic environment.

Cooperative teaching, specifically through group activities that require problem solving and decision making, promotes the development of critical thinking skills. Collaborative initiatives, such as group research projects, facilitate knowledge exchange among students and foster a more profound comprehension of intricate matters.

6. Reflective diaries - Promoting the practice of students maintaining diaries to reflect on their learning experiences fosters self-assessment and enhances critical thinking. Reflective writing facilitates the internalization of students' learning and enables them to identify areas in need of development.

Obstacles and Resolutions

Teaching critical thinking skills to English Language Learners (ELLs) can be difficult because of the obstacles posed by language hurdles and cultural disparities. In order to tackle these difficulties:

- Offer scaffolding: Employ visual aids, sentence prompts, and graphic organizers to bolster pupils' cognitive processes.
- Establish a Secure Environment: Cultivate an all-encompassing classroom ambiance where pupils feel at ease articulating their thoughts without apprehension of committing errors.
- Individualize Instruction: Customize activities to accommodate the varying levels of competency and learning preferences of students.

CONCLUSION

Cultivating the ability to think critically in English language learners is crucial for their comprehensive academic and personal development. The first challenge is to identify the difficulties faced by language learners and devise effective solutions for them. By integrating question-and-answer techniques, problem-based learning, debate, authentic materials, collaborative learning, and reflective practices into English language instruction, teachers can facilitate the development of critical thinking and communication skills in English language learners (ELs). To effectively tackle the obstacles of teaching critical thinking, it is necessary to carefully plan strategies and establish a supportive learning environment. In conclusion, providing English Language Learners (ELLs) with the necessary critical thinking abilities will empower them to adeptly and efficiently navigate the intricacies of the contemporary society.

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