Research Article

SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS OF METHODS OF ASSESSMENT OF TEXT COMPREHENSION, INTERPRETATION AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS SKILLS IN NATIVE LANGUAGE CLASSES

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ABSTRACT

Assessing text comprehension, interpretation, and critical analysis skills is central to mother tongue education, as these abilities lay the foundation for effective communication, critical thinking, and literacy. This article provides a systematic analysis of the methods used to evaluate these skills, reviewing various approaches that measure students' abilities to understand, interpret, and critique texts in their native language. The analysis covers traditional and innovative assessment methods, including standardized tests, open-ended questions, rubrics, and digital assessments. By evaluating the strengths and limitations of these methods, the article aims to offer educators insights into effective practices for assessing text-based skills, ultimately supporting the design of a comprehensive and balanced assessment strategy for mother tongue classes.

KEYWORDS

Text comprehension, interpretation skills, critical analysis, assessment methods, mother tongue education, literacy assessment, rubric-based evaluation, digital assessment.

INTRODUCTION

In native language classes, the development of text comprehension, interpretation, and critical analysis skills is essential for fostering literacy and cognitive abilities. These skills allow students to engage deeply with language, understand implicit and explicit meanings, and critically evaluate content. Effective assessment methods are crucial for measuring these skills and identifying areas where students may need

additional support.[1] This article systematically reviews common assessment methods, offering insights into their applications, benefits, and challenges in the context of mother tongue education. The ability to comprehend, interpret, and critically analyze texts in one's native language is foundational to literacy and academic success. Assessments reveal areas where students may struggle, allowing educators to provide targeted support. Evaluating critical analysis skills fosters a deeper engagement with texts, encouraging students to think beyond surface-level meaning.[2] Regular assessments of comprehension and interpretation contribute to overall language proficiency and vocabulary expansion. A comprehensive assessment approach in mother tongue classes ensures that students are not only capable of understanding the text but also able to interpret and analyze it from multiple perspectives. Assessing text skills in mother tongue education is paramount for several reasons. Proficiency in mother tongue text skills forms the bedrock for developing literacy in any language. Understanding text structure, identifying key information, interpreting meaning, and expressing oneself effectively through writing are crucial skills that transfer across languages. Engaging with text fosters cognitive growth. It strengthens critical thinking, analytical abilities, problem-solving skills, and the ability to understand and process complex information. These are essential skills for academic success and lifelong learning. Strong text skills enhance communication and social interaction. They enable individuals to comprehend and contribute to conversations, express themselves clearly and effectively, and navigate various social situations confidently. Textual analysis allows individuals to understand and appreciate their own culture and heritage. It deepens their understanding of history,

literature, and social norms, fostering cultural awareness and empathy. Proficiency in text skills is fundamental to academic success. Students who can read, understand, and analyze texts effectively can navigate schoolwork, research, and examinations with greater ease. Strong text skills are increasingly valued in the workplace.[3] Effective communication, writing, and information processing are essential in today's knowledge-based economy. Text skills empower individuals to engage with the world around them. They provide tools for understanding information, forming opinions, and contributing meaningfully to society. By systematically assessing text skills, educators can empower students to become confident and competent users of language, opening doors to academic success, career opportunities, and lifelong learning.

METHOD

Methods of Assessing Text Comprehension. Text comprehension involves understanding the main ideas, details, and themes of a text.[4] Common methods for assessing comprehension include:

1. Standardized Tests. Standardized tests are frequently used to evaluate comprehension skills on a broad scale, using multiple-choice or true/false questions to assess students' ability to recall information and grasp main ideas. Standardized tests are easy to administer and score, providing quantitative data for large groups of students. They may oversimplify comprehension by focusing on factual recall rather than deep understanding, limiting insight into students' interpretative skills.

2. Open-Ended Questions. Open-ended questions require students to explain their understanding of a

text, encouraging them to articulate ideas in their own words. These questions assess comprehension at a deeper level by allowing students to express their understanding, thereby revealing nuances in their interpretation. Open-ended questions can be time-consuming to evaluate, and responses may be subjective, requiring clear rubrics for consistent scoring.

3. Summarization Tasks. Asking students to summarize a text tests their ability to identify key points and condense information accurately.[5] Summarization demonstrates comprehension and helps students practice synthesizing information. Summarization may not reflect students' complete understanding, as it focuses primarily on the main points rather than deeper interpretation.

Methods of Assessing Text Interpretation Skills. Text interpretation goes beyond comprehension, requiring students to infer meanings, recognize tone, and understand context. Common assessment methods include. Rubrics provide a structured approach to assess interpretation by defining specific criteria, such as identifying themes, inferring meanings, and recognizing authorial intent. Rubrics clarify expectations for students and enable more objective assessment of interpretative skills, making evaluation fair and transparent.[6] Rubric-based assessments require careful design to ensure that criteria accurately reflect interpretation skills, as overly prescriptive rubrics may limit students' creative responses. Comparative analysis assignments tasks, students are asked to compare two or more texts, analyzing similarities and differences in themes, style, and authorial approach.[7] Comparative analysis encourages students to explore interpretative angles, developing their ability to draw connections and

analyze context. The complexity of comparative tasks may challenge some students, particularly if they lack experience with critical reading. Guided discussion and oral assessment such as guided discussions, allow educators to directly observe students' interpretative skills by asking questions and prompting in-depth analysis. Oral assessments provide immediate insight into students' interpretative thought processes and can be tailored to individual understanding. They may lack consistency across different students and require skillful facilitation to ensure fair assessment.

Methods of Assessing Critical Analysis Skills. Critical analysis involves evaluating arguments, identifying biases, and assessing the credibility of information within a text. Effective assessment methods include. Analytical essays require students to form arguments and critique texts based on evidence and reasoning. These essays test students' ability to dissect arguments and express critical perspectives. Essays enable students to explore ideas in-depth, providing educators with a detailed view of their analytical abilities. Essays can be subjective, requiring well-defined rubrics to ensure consistency and fairness in grading. Digital annotation tools, such as online platforms that allow for text markup and commentary, provide students with a hands-on way to analyze and critique texts.[8] Digital tools enable students to engage actively with the text, making connections between sections, highlighting important points, and annotating with critical insights. Some students may be unfamiliar with digital tools, and technological issues could affect access and usability. Group debates encourage students to critique a text through structured arguments, defending their perspectives and responding to counterarguments. Debates promote critical thinking, as students must construct,

present, and defend arguments in real-time. Not all students are comfortable in debate settings, and differences in speaking confidence could affect performance.[9] Emerging trends in assessment of text skills: Recent advancements in education have introduced new methods for assessing text comprehension, interpretation, and critical analysis: E-portfolios allow students to compile a range of assignments, showing progression in text skills over time. By analyzing portfolios, educators gain a holistic view of students' development across multiple assessments. AI-based tools, such as automated text analysis and grading software, offer objective assessments of written responses, reducing grading time and minimizing bias. These tools are particularly useful for large classes but may lack the nuance needed for deep analysis. Formative assessments, such as ongoing feedback loops, help students improve continuously. Tools like learning management systems (LMS) facilitate formative assessments by providing real-time feedback on assignments.[10]

CONCLUSION

A systematic approach to assessing text comprehension, interpretation, and critical analysis skills in mother tongue classes involves selecting methods that align with learning goals and student needs. Traditional methods, such as open-ended questions, analytical essays, and rubrics, remain valuable for gauging students' abilities. However, incorporating digital tools, collaborative discussions, and emerging technologies enhances the assessment process, offering more interactive and comprehensive ways to evaluate students' text skills.[11] A balanced assessment strategy—integrating traditional and innovative methods—enables educators to identify skill gaps, support critical thinking, and improve

language proficiency. By refining assessment practices, mother tongue programs can better prepare students for advanced language skills, equipping them to engage deeply with texts in both academic and real-world settings.

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