Critical thinking and creativity in teaching the Russian language in schools with Uzbek language of instruction in the new Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This article examines the importance of developing critical thinking and creativity in teaching the Russian language in schools where instruction is conducted in Uzbek, in the new Uzbekistan. The study analyzes the effectiveness of modern methods, technologies, and pedagogical approaches in the educational process. According to the article, learning the Russian language is essential for establishing global connections, exchanging knowledge, and stimulating creative thinking. Critical thinking helps to enhance students' intellectual levels and develops their ability for independent thought. Creativity, in turn, allows for the generation of new ideas and effective solutions. The results of the study show that the effective application of creative tasks and interactive methods increases students' interest in learning the Russian language. This article also offers methodological recommendations for developing critical thinking and creativity within the educational system.

Introduction: Education is one of the fundamental foundations of every society and plays a crucial role in the intellectual, social, and spiritual development of individuals. Currently, in the new Uzbekistan, the implementation of modern methods, technologies, and scientific approaches aims to enhance the effectiveness and quality of the educational system. Along with improving the material and technical base of schools and creating comfortable conditions, innovative teaching methods are actively employed to foster students' ability to think independently. The development of independent thinking among students, in turn, depends on the methods and approaches of each teacher.

In our research, we express views on the development of critical thinking and creativity among students in Russian language lessons. Our study is focused on students learning in Uzbek.

The Russian language, as one of the important languages globally, is widely spoken not only in Asia but also in Europe and other regions. For Uzbek youth, learning Russian is not only about language proficiency but also an opportunity to immerse themselves in Russian culture, literature, science, and technology. The study of the Russian language is considered significant in the educational process as it facilitates the establishment of international connections, knowledge exchange, and stimulates creative thinking. Moreover, the Russian language is an important tool for ensuring competitiveness in the modern labor market. Thus, learning Russian is vital not only for personal development but also for enhancing the spiritual and intellectual potential of society. Mastery of this language allows youth to actively engage on a global level and ensures success in their professional endeavors in the future.

In new Uzbekistan, the educational system is one of the key elements of socio-economic development. A series of reforms aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of education are being implemented in the country. Schools where instruction is conducted in Uzbek hold a central place in these reforms and play an important role in preserving the national culture and

language of Uzbek youth. At the same time, learning the Russian language in the educational process conducted in Uzbek provides students with global knowledge. Teaching Russian, alongside new methodologies and pedagogical approaches integrated into curricula, contributes to the development of creativity and critical thinking. In the process of teaching Russian in our country, it is essential to utilize modern technologies, multimedia tools, and interactive methods, which should increase students' interest and aid them in effectively mastering the material. This, in turn, can ensure the modernity and dynamic development of the educational system in our country. We will explore issues such as what critical thinking is, how to develop it, how it relates to creativity, and whether it is an innate talent or can be mastered by every student.

Literature review

Numerous scientific studies have been conducted in this field by both local and foreign scholars. In particular, the term "critical thinking" traces back to philosopher John Dewey. He often used the term as "reflective thinking," which implies "active, systematic, and careful consideration of any thought or presumed knowledge based on factors and consequences." [2] To clarify the concept of critical thinking, Richard Paul (1995) suggested dividing it into two types: strong and weak. Weak critical thinking is described as the thinking of a highly skilled but selfish intellectual who does not consider the moral implications of their actions. Such thinkers often possess a high level of knowledge but use it to achieve dishonest and selfish goals. In contrast, strong critical thinking refers to the thinking of a person who, without an egocentric or sociocentric approach, strives to objectively understand the logic of problems.[1]

In this context, critical thinking is aimed at sincerely overcoming obstacles on the path to truth. Psychologist Diana Halpern considers critical thinking to be the use of cognitive methods characterized by control, justification, and relevance, which increases the likelihood of obtaining the desired result. These methods are applied in problem-solving, drawing conclusions, probabilistic assessment, and decision-making, requiring relevant and effective skills for specific situations and types of problems. Modern researcher R. Ennis mentions the main and most important dispositions of ideal critical thinking, such as: clear expression of thought; seeking justification; attempting to be well-informed; looking for alternative options; openness; avoidance of discussion in the absence of grounds, and so on.[3,4]

Uzbek scholars A. Mirzaev, N. Turaev, A. Kamalov, A.

Soliev, and F. Saidullayev emphasize the importance of applying modern technologies in their research. In these studies, the use of internet resources and multimedia tools is seen as an effective means of enhancing students' abilities to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.[5]

However, insufficient attention is paid to the unexplored aspects of critical thinking in education and social activity. Moreover, there is a lack of understanding of the significance and importance of critical thinking among the general public. People often associate critical thinking solely with criticism or expressions of dissatisfaction, which hinders a full understanding of its essence.

There is a lack of clear studies on the differences in the perception and development of critical thinking in cultural contexts, ignoring the influence of culture on the formation of critical thinking. Additionally, there is a deficiency of effective methods and methodologies for integrating critical thinking with creative thinking, leading to a loss of synergy between both processes. Social influences, group dynamics, communication, and relationships can affect critical thinking; however, insufficient research has been conducted on these aspects. Adaptation to the professional sphere is also important, as there is insufficient information on how critical thinking is realized and adapted in various fields (e.g., medicine, business, education). The role of modern technologies in the development of critical thinking and effective ways to use them has also not been thoroughly studied within research. Exploring these aspects is crucial for effectively developing critical thinking and enhancing its significance in education.[6]

METHODOLOGY

The goal of this research is to study the content and model of developing critical thinking. The methodology includes the following stages: first, the objectives and tasks of the research are defined, specifically identifying the main principles of critical thinking, investigating methods for developing critical thinking in Russian language lessons, and determining methods that enhance students' intellectual potential.

Research methods include theoretical analysis, empirical research, and experimental methods. The theoretical analysis examines the theoretical foundations of critical thinking, its place in cultural and pedagogical contexts, and studies scientific opinions and methodologies through existing literature. The empirical research involves observing Russian language lessons in schools where instruction is conducted in Uzbek, collecting data through interviews and questionnaires with students. The experimental

method implements proposed methods for developing critical thinking using techniques such as discussions, group work, and logical games to ensure active participation.

The subjects of the study are Russian language lessons in schools where instruction is conducted in Uzbek, as well as the students and their teachers participating in the research. Collected data are analyzed using statistical and content-analysis methods, assessing students' opinions, their responses to questions, and their critical thinking abilities. The results include conclusions about the effectiveness of developing critical thinking in Russian language lessons, based on which methodological recommendations are developed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Critical thinking is the process of analyzing, evaluating, forming conclusions, and making decisions based on information. It encompasses a full range of cognitive processes, contributing to the development of a person's mental abilities. Critical thinking is significant in education as it helps students identify problems, solve them effectively, and develop a creative approach.

The importance of critical thinking lies in its ability to enhance students' intellectual level and stimulate independent thinking. It positively influences the personal development of youth, allowing them to express their thoughts, consider others' opinions, and engage in constructive discussions. Furthermore, critical thinking develops the skills necessary for making effective decisions in social, economic, and cultural contexts.[7]

Several methods exist for developing critical thinking. Among them, approaches such as analysis, discussion, questioning, and case studies are actively applied. Through analysis, students can delve deeper into texts and identify key ideas. Discussions stimulate their thought processes, while questioning fosters critical thinking.

Creativity is the ability to generate new ideas, concepts, and effective solutions. It encompasses a person's capacity to create useful and novel things. Creativity plays a crucial role in the educational process, as it develops innovative thinking and students' creative abilities. Its development largely depends on a person's psychological state, teaching methods, and engagement in creative activities.[8]

Psychology of creativity

Psychological aspects of creativity play a significant role in developing a person's activity and willful behavior. Creativity is typically associated with internal motives, interests, and experiences gained through the learning process.

1.   **Creative Thinking**: Creativity primarily requires creative thinking. This includes the ability to view problems from multiple perspectives, propose alternative solutions, and formulate innovative ideas.

2.   **Emotional State**: Creativity is also linked to emotional states. A person's creative activities are closely related to their emotional abilities and feelings. It is essential to create a positive emotional environment to stimulate creative processes.

3.   **Motivation**: Motivation is one of the key components of creativity. Defining personal goals, interests, and aspirations fosters creative activity. To develop creativity, it is important to properly target a person's internal and external motives.[9]

The significance of creativity lies in its ability to develop independent thinking and the generation of new ideas among youth. This helps them achieve success in their social and professional lives. Creativity is not just about creation; it also involves the necessity of finding solutions to problems, developing creative approaches, and ensuring competitiveness. Thus, creativity enhances the effectiveness of life and contributes to social development.

To foster creativity, various methods such as creative assignments, modeling, multimedia tools, and group work methods are actively employed. Through creative assignments, students gain the opportunity to generate and implement new ideas. Modeling helps them study real-life situations, while multimedia tools stimulate creative thinking.

There are several effective methods for stimulating creativity among students. Firstly, creative assignments aid in developing students' abilities to create new ideas and projects. For example, project work, scriptwriting, or creating creative stories activates their creative thinking.

Interactive methods also play an important role in stimulating creative activity. Group work, discussions, and debates encourage students to share opinions and engage in constructive discussions, which fosters creative thinking. The use of multimedia tools is also effective in stimulating creativity. Videos, animations, graphics, and interactive platforms capture students' attention and help them assimilate material.

Creating a creative environment is also crucial. Providing an open atmosphere for students' ideas, opinions, and projects enhances their creative abilities. Finally, creativity can also be developed through role-playing. Assigning roles among students, writing and presenting creative scripts develops their creative

skills. Role-playing, in turn, enhances their creative thinking and problem-solving abilities. These methods are essential for effectively developing creativity and the creative activity of students.[10]

The importance of critical thinking in teaching Russian

The significance of critical thinking in the process of learning Russian lies in its ability to ensure active and effective language acquisition by students. Critical thinking allows students to analyze information, evaluate it, and use it for making effective decisions. Additionally, this process fosters independent thinking and creative approaches among students.

Methods of analysis and evaluation play a crucial role in developing critical thinking. They enable students to assimilate information more deeply, understand it, and develop their problem-solving abilities. An important aspect of analysis methods is text analysis. Students can be invited to analyze texts in Russian. For example, an excerpt from the novel "The Master and Margarita" can be taken to analyze its main themes, characters, and their relationships. Students need to read the text, evaluate its content, and express their opinions. They are also required to gather facts and arguments to express their views on a specific topic, helping them articulate their perspectives clearly and persuasively.[11]

Evaluation methods are also significant. Students can assess their own essays or stories and compare them with similar works. This enhances their thinking abilities and strengthens their creative approach. Group assessment is also beneficial as it allows students to work together and evaluate each other, developing social skills.[12]

Discussions are considered an important tool for developing critical thinking. During discussions, students have the opportunity to express their opinions, listen to others' viewpoints, and engage in constructive debates. For example, on the topic "The Importance of the Russian Language," students should express their opinions while considering others'. Through role-playing, students can be assigned roles and given specific tasks. For instance, one group may discuss the advantages of learning Russian, while another may explore its disadvantages. This stimulates their creative thinking.

Participation in discussions develops students' thinking abilities, as they are compelled to express their thoughts clearly and concisely. Listening to the opinions of other students helps broaden their knowledge. Thus, discussions foster social connections and the ability to make team decisions.

The importance of creativity in teaching Russian

The significance of creativity in the process of learning Russian lies in its ability to ensure active and effective language acquisition among students. Creativity helps students generate new ideas, concepts, and solutions. This process, in turn, contributes to the development of their independent thinking, creative approaches, and ability to solve problems effectively.

Creative assignments are important tools for developing students' creative abilities. These assignments typically differ from formal teaching methods, encouraging students to actively participate, generate new ideas, and implement them. For example, students can be asked to write a new story or poem in Russian, providing them with the opportunity to express their personal experiences and feelings. They might write a story on the theme "An Event of Great Significance to You." They can also be asked to write a script and present it creatively. This fosters their tolerance, creative thinking, and performance skills.[13]

Students should apply creative approaches to problem-solving. For example, they might be tasked with preparing a project on "Imagining the Future of Your City." In this project, they will need to suggest ways to develop the city and propose creative solutions. Creative assignments also enhance students' ability to work in teams. They can collaboratively prepare a project, exchange opinions, and engage in constructive debates.

Multimedia tools also play a crucial role in developing creativity. These can include videos, animations, interactive platforms, and graphic materials. Multimedia tools help capture students' attention, facilitate material assimilation, and stimulate creative thinking. Offering students the opportunity to watch videos and animations in Russian increases their interest in learning the language and culture. For example, they can analyze and discuss excerpts from Russian films. Through videos, students can be given creative assignments such as "Rewrite a piece taken from a movie" or "Create an alternative ending for a film."

Students can present their creative works on interactive platforms, where they can share their projects with other students and exchange opinions. In this way, multimedia tools stimulate students' creative thinking and encourage them to actively participate in the process of learning Russian.

Research conducted during the learning process aims to highlight the importance of creativity and interactive methods. The results show that the application of creative assignments and interactive methods significantly enhances students' effectiveness in

learning Russian. Students' creative thinking abilities directly impact their level of language acquisition.

Additionally, during the research, students' attitudes towards the Russian language were assessed. Many students find learning Russian interesting and important, as it provides them with opportunities to establish international connections. The research revealed opinions on the advantages of learning Russian and its significance in contemporary society. Providing a creative approach in learning Russian is essential for increasing student interest and activity.[14]

Game-Based Lesson: "Creative Project in Russian"

As part of the research, a game-based lesson was planned in schools where instruction is conducted in Uzbek, specifically in schools under the Department of Public Education of the Balikchi district, Andijan region of Uzbekistan, with the aim of teaching high school students creativity in Russian language classes and applying methods for its development in practice.

The goal of the lesson is to enhance students' knowledge of the Russian language, stimulate their creative thinking, and improve their attitude towards the language.

During the lesson, a discussion on the importance of the Russian language and its beneficial aspects is conducted first. Students express their opinions on the topic "Why Learn the Russian Language?" They then split into two groups, with each group tasked with preparing a "Creative Project." Project topics may include "The City of the Future" or "The Global Significance of the Russian Language." Students are given the opportunity to use multimedia tools.

After preparing their projects, each group presents their project to the other groups. During the presentation, students must ask questions and engage in discussions. Students evaluate each other's projects by discussing questions such as "Why is this project interesting?" and "What should be paid attention to?" At the end of the lesson, students' opinions about the Russian language and their creative thinking abilities are discussed. The results of this lesson increase students' interest in the Russian language, develop their creative abilities, and effectively apply interactive methods. Students actively participate in the language learning process, enhancing their attitude towards it.

Thus, practice and research reveal the significance of creativity in teaching the Russian language and positively alter students' attitudes towards it.

Recommendations for Russian language teachers

Russian language teachers are recommended to structure lessons with the following guidelines for developing critical thinking and creativity among students:

1. **Methodological Renewal**: Updating teaching methods is important for enhancing the effectiveness of the educational process. Implementing modern methods and using interactive and creative approaches ensures effective knowledge acquisition for students. Interactive methods, such as group discussions and debates, engage students actively.

Creative Assignments: Providing creative assignments is an effective tool for developing students' creative abilities. Requests for writing stories, preparing scripts, or developing projects based on personal experience boost their activity. This process fosters creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

2. **Increasing Interactivity**: Dividing students into small groups for discussions is an effective way to enhance interactivity. This method promotes collective thinking and encourages students to communicate with each other. Group work allows for exploring various viewpoints, expressing opinions, and engaging in constructive debates. This process develops students' creative and critical thinking.

Organizing Debates: Debates allow students to defend their viewpoints on specific topics. This process requires active participation, gathering arguments, and presenting them successfully. Debates also promote the clear and confident expression of opinions and improve their communication and analytical skills. These methods help students actively engage in the educational process.

3. **Using Multimedia Tools**: Videos and animations in Russian play an important role in increasing students' interest. These tools effectively facilitate knowledge acquisition through visual material. Videos serve as effective instruments for presenting topics in an interactive manner and capturing students' attention. Animations help vividly and clearly explain complex concepts.

Interactive Platforms: Online tests, quizzes, and interactive lessons serve as effective tools for increasing student activity. Interactive platforms allow students to test their knowledge and learn new material interactively. Online tests motivate students through quick assessments and rewards. Quizzes foster competition among students and make the learning process more engaging.

4. **Creating an Emotional Environment**: Establishing a positive atmosphere is crucial for students to freely express their opinions. Such an environment helps students openly and freely articulate their thoughts and needs. A positive

atmosphere encourages student activity, understanding causes, asking questions, and conducting mutual discussions. This process enhances collaboration and trust among students.

Opinion Exchange Sessions: Opinion exchange sessions create a platform for students to share their ideas. In these sessions, students can freely express their opinions, experiences, and reflections. Sharing opinions stimulates communication among students, develops their thinking abilities, and introduces them to new ideas. Such sessions enhance creative thinking and ensure active participation in the educational process.

5.   Role-Playing: Role-playing involves assigning roles for writing and presenting creative scripts. This method allows students to explore different roles and express them creatively. Role assignment enables each student to demonstrate their abilities and simulate real-life situations while studying new material.

In this process, students must write creative scripts, discuss them, express their viewpoints, and present the script creatively. Such activities contribute to developing their creative thinking, improving teamwork and communication skills.

6.   Case Studies: Case studies allow students to conduct research to solve real-life problems. This method encourages students to actively participate in identifying, analyzing, and seeking solutions to problems. Considering real situations helps bridge theoretical knowledge with practical research.

During the research process, students work in teams, gather information, analyze it, and develop strategies for solutions. This helps develop their critical thinking, stimulates creative solutions, and forms necessary skills for solving real problems.

7.   Cultural Studies: Research related to Russian culture and literature is important for expanding students' cultural knowledge and increasing their interest. Such research helps students understand the historical, creative, and social contexts of Russian literature more deeply.

During the research process, students can analyze key works of Russian literature, authors, and their creativity. This develops their creative thinking, helps them explore new concepts, and utilize them in their expressions. Cultural studies also familiarize students with various aspects of Russian culture, traditions, and values. Such research fosters cultural interaction and mutual understanding, developing students' critical and creative thinking. Research related to Russian culture and literature motivates students to engage with cultural riches in both national and global contexts.

Implementing these steps will contribute to the development of critical thinking and creativity among students. A systematic approach will ensure active and effective learning of the Russian language.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research emphasizes the importance of developing critical thinking and creativity in the process of learning the Russian language in schools where instruction is conducted in Uzbek. In the new Uzbekistan, the integration of modern methods and technologies into the educational system aims to ensure active student participation and enhance their creative abilities. Critical thinking helps students identify problems and find effective solutions. Creativity develops the ability to generate new ideas and concepts. All of this contributes to an effective and engaging process of learning the Russian language. Case studies, role-playing, multimedia tools, and interactive methods play significant roles in expanding students' knowledge and developing their cultural understanding. This research offers effective methods for fostering creative and critical thinking among students, which ensures their overall intellectual growth. Furthermore, learning the Russian language is vital for establishing international connections, stimulating cultural interaction, and actively involving youth on a global scale. The results of this research reaffirm the significance of developing creativity and critical thinking in the educational process.

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