

THE MAIN AIMS AND TASKS OF THE DESIGN THINKING METHOD IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract: The education system is evolving to emphasize creativity, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills. Design Thinking (DT), originally developed for design and manufacturing, has found its place in education, fostering active learning through empathy, collaboration, and experiential problem-solving. This article explores the application of Design Thinking in language teaching, highlighting its core objectives: enhancing creativity, building empathy, fostering collaboration, and promoting experiential learning. DT encourages students to analyze problems, develop solutions, create prototypes, and refine their work through feedback. The method not only improves communication skills and cultural awareness but also prepares students to think critically and engage practically with language. While challenges exist in implementation, Design Thinking presents a transformative approach to modern pedagogy, making the learning process more dynamic and effective.

Keywords: Design Thinking, creative learning, language teaching, problem-solving, experiential learning, collaboration, empathy, communication skills, education innovation, active learning.

Introduction

The education system is constantly adapting to emphasize the importance of fostering creative thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills among students. One of these methods is Design Thinking (DT), which has become an integral part of modern pedagogical approaches aimed at making the instructional process more creative and efficient. The approach was originally developed for design and manufacturing, but now Design Thinking has a place in education, where it enables instructors to guide their learners in solving problems with empathy, creativity, teamwork, and practical skills.

Designing Thinking differs from rote knowledge transmission in that it requires the learner's active participation in problem-solving, teamwork, and creative thinking. This article has the purposes of delineating main tasks and functions and explaining applications of Design Thinking in teaching of languages.

Goals of the Design Thinking Method. The central focus of Design Thinking is to train learners to analyze a problem from multiple angles and identify understanding solutions. In contrast to conventional teaching approaches, Design Thinking permits all types of free expression, enables different forms of creativity, and accepts failures as a good learning opportunity. The main goals of Design Thinking include:

1. **Developing Creative Thinking:** One of the key goals of the Design Thinking method is to encourage students to think creatively. In this method, students are taught to approach problems from various angles, create new and original ideas, and analyze existing solutions while searching for new opportunities. This process gives students the opportunity to express their thoughts freely and provides a safe environment for them to test their creativity. The process of creating ideas and solutions is continually revisited, giving students the chance to improve and update each solution. This development enhances students' decision-making skills, ability to implement new ideas, and learn from mistakes. Such an approach helps students build confidence in themselves and prepares them to introduce new ideas and thoughts. Moreover, it teaches them to solve problems in new and original ways, thereby increasing their overall creativity and innovative thinking potential.

2. **Building Empathy:** Empathy plays a crucial role in the Design Thinking method because it helps students understand the thoughts, feelings, and needs of others. Encouraging students to

develop empathy teaches them not only to solve problems but also to step into others' shoes and view things from their perspective. This approach is especially important in language teaching because language is not only a means of communication but also a bridge that connects cultures. When students try to understand the culture, traditions, values, and needs of others, they develop mutual respect and understanding.

3. **Fostering Collaboration:** Collaboration holds significant importance in the Design Thinking method because working in groups, sharing ideas, and solving problems together provides students with an effective learning opportunity. This process becomes one of the core components of language teaching, as learning a language is not limited to grammar and vocabulary. Effective communication, exchanging ideas freely, and collectively finding solutions are vital parts of language learning. By encouraging students to work in groups, the Design Thinking method develops their skills in exchanging ideas and solving problems together.

4. **Experiential Learning:** One of the significant aspects of the Design Thinking method is providing students with opportunities to learn through practice. This method helps students apply theoretical knowledge to real-world problems. Experiential learning encourages students not to be limited to textbook materials but to test their knowledge in real-life situations. This process helps students strengthen their understanding by testing and analyzing the results of what they have learned. Students gain a deeper understanding of their knowledge and skills through practice, as they apply theoretical knowledge to solve problems and search for new solutions.

Tasks of the Design Thinking Method. The primary task of the Design Thinking method is to guide students not just through theoretical knowledge but also towards practical activities. In the teaching process, the following tasks should be carried out:

1. **Identifying and Analyzing Problems:** In the Design Thinking process, students first identify the problem or situation, analyze it, and try to understand the root causes of the problem. This task helps students develop their skills in analyzing texts, understanding content, and expressing ideas in different languages during language teaching.

2. **Creating Solutions:** Once a problem is identified, students are encouraged to come up with various solutions and ideas. This task develops students' creative thinking and language skills in language teaching.

3. **Creating Prototypes:** Students create prototypes to test the ideas and solutions they have developed. In language teaching, this task enhances students' skills in applying the language in practice and encourages them to express their ideas correctly.

4. **Receiving Feedback and Improving:** After testing the prototypes and solutions, students are given feedback and encouraged to improve their work. This process helps students develop their listening and analytical skills in language teaching.

Importance of the Design Thinking Method in Language Teaching.

The importance of the Design Thinking method in language teaching is significant. This method teaches students not only to read and write in a language but also to use it creatively and practically. Students develop skills in expressing their thoughts in various ways, working in groups, and engaging with other cultures through the Design Thinking process.

1. **Developing Communication Skills:** In the Design Thinking process, students develop communication and interaction skills by working in groups. This helps students express their ideas clearly and effectively in language teaching.

2. **Understanding Cultural Differences:** Empathy and understanding other cultures are vital in the Design Thinking method. In language teaching, this provides students with more opportunities to learn about the languages, cultures, and values of other nations.

Conclusion

The Design Thinking method allows students to develop not only their language skills but also their creative thinking, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork. Through this method, students acquire both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Teachers need to enhance their skills to apply the Design Thinking method effectively and address challenges such as time, curriculum, and assessment systems in the education system. However, the benefits of the

Design Thinking method demonstrate its potential to fundamentally change the educational process.

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