

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AND CRITICAL THINKING

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Annotation: The following article deals with the some advantages of integration of English learning and critical thinking in English classes at school, which leads to more effective results in the situation of Uzbekistan education system.

Key words: facilitating, creative, approach, involve, collaborative, problem-based learning

In the modern educational landscape, teaching English to school learners transcends the mere acquisition of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. It involves fostering critical thinking skills that empower students to analyze, evaluate, and create ideas. This synergy between English language learning and critical thinking is essential for developing competent, thoughtful communicators who can navigate the complexities of the world.

Critical thinking is broadly defined as the ability to think clearly and rationally about what to do or believe. It involves the skills of analysis, evaluation, inference, and problem-solving. When applied to language learning, critical thinking encourages students to approach texts and discussions thoughtfully[1;22], considering multiple perspectives and underlying assumptions.

The Role of Critical Thinking in English Language Learning

1. Enhancing Comprehension Skills

Critical thinking does not just apply to analyzing literature; it also enhances comprehension of texts across genres. When students engage with a text, asking questions such as "What is the author's purpose?" or "What perspectives are missing?" allows them to deepen their understanding and develop a more nuanced interpretation of content.

2. Encouraging Active Engagement

Teaching English through critical thinking methods transforms students from passive recipients of information into active participants in their learning. Activities such as debates and discussions compel students to articulate their thoughts, consider counterarguments, and defend their viewpoints. This active engagement not only improves language skills but also builds confidence.



3. Promoting Creative Thinking

The intersection of English language learning and critical thinking also nurtures creativity. By encouraging students to think outside the box when approaching language tasks—such as writing stories, creating dialogues, or analyzing themes in literature—they are not only applying their language skills but also exercising imagination and originality.

4. Facilitating Real-World Applications

Critical thinking prepares learners for real-world communication challenges. By engaging in problem-solving tasks that require negotiation, persuasion, and clear argumentation, students learn to navigate complex conversations and develop skills that are invaluable in future academic and professional contexts.

Strategies for Integrating Critical Thinking in English Language Teaching

1. Socratic Questioning

Incorporating Socratic questioning in discussions can lead students to deeper insights. Questions such as "What evidence supports your opinion?" or "How does this relate to our previous discussions?" guide learners to think critically about their responses.

2. Collaborative Learning

Group projects that require collaboration encourage learners to hear different viewpoints and challenge each other's thinking. This also promotes social skills and leadership, essential components of language acquisition[2;66].

3. Problem-Based Learning

Utilizing real-world problems in lessons helps students connect language skills to practical applications[3;123]. For example, discussing environmental issues or social justice allows students to use language in context while developing critical thinking skills.

4. Reflective Practices

Encouraging students to reflect on their learning through journals or discussions can help them articulate their thoughts and articulate their learning journey. Reflective practices facilitate self-assessment and goal-setting[4;98].

In conclusion it should be marked that the integration of critical thinking into English language teaching is vital for preparing school learners to become not only proficient users of the language but also critical thinkers who can analyze and engage with the world around them. Teachers who embrace this





holistic approach contribute to the development of learners who are well-equipped to tackle complex issues, communicate effectively, and lead thoughtful lives. As education evolves, fostering critical thinking alongside English language learning will remain essential in nurturing a generation of informed, articulate, and active global citizens.

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