

THE IMPACT OF CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IN TEACHING ENGLISH

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Abstract. *This study focuses on the importance of critical thinking in learning and teaching English and offers recommendations for experiments to improve its use in the classroom.*

Keywords: *critical thinking abilities, analytical thinking, learning languages, English language teaching, ESL learners, instructional practices,*

INTRODUCTION

Language learning is a complex process that requires more than just memorization. Critical thinking is a vital component of language learning that cannot be ignored. Developing critical thinking skills helps language learners understand and analyze the language they're learning. This leads to better communication skills and a deeper understanding of the language's structure, grammar, and vocabulary. Introducing critical thinking in schools can produce innovative and successful individuals. This study examines how critical thinking improves English language skills among ESL learners.

Teaching the language, not about the language, is another phrase in response to old language teaching techniques focused on teaching explicit rules about grammar instead of allowing students to learn the language through usage. The inductive technique uses specific sentences to derive grammar rules, while pattern practice or drill is the most crucial aspect of language learning. Empirical studies on the superiority of deductive or inductive techniques have not produced critical results. [5;13.]. Critical thinking abilities do not appear naturally; rather, teachers must take a directed role in initiating and guiding critical thinking. Critical thinking may be applied as an instrument in language education, and it is especially suited given the variety of content and interactive ways. Critical thinking additionally helps to improve the English language and

apply it consistently in real-life situations [2;21.]. Critical thinking is essential for learners, according to a study of 433 universities. It explores how students apply it and how it improves their English language skills. [1; 3.].

English language instructors are educated to teach language skills but may not know how to teach critical thinking abilities, which aid in learning. Many curriculum requirements include critical thinking abilities, yet some teachers may not know how to teach them. This activity is challenging for everyone and takes practice. Thinking critically becomes considerably more difficult when using a second language.

Implementing of critical thinking in language learning

Critical thinking is a vital skill for language learners as it enables them to communicate effectively, understand diverse cultures, and develop their perspectives. Language instructors can promote critical thinking by using various techniques that challenge students to think beyond the basics of language. This article explores the significance of critical thinking skills in language teaching and learning.

1. Enhanced Language Proficiency: By encouraging students to think critically, teachers can help them improve their language proficiency. Critical thinking promotes active engagement with the language, leading to a deeper understanding of vocabulary, grammar, and language structures.

2. Improved Reading Comprehension: Critical thinking skills enable students to analyze and interpret written texts more effectively. This skill is essential for grasping the main ideas, identifying supporting details, and making inferences while reading various types of English texts. Academic reading programs often have goals that include analyzing academic writing. Critical thinking is essential for achieving this goal. It involves reflecting on and analyzing ideas, dividing a topic into sections, evaluating each component, challenging opinions, and reaching an objective conclusion.

3. Effective Writing Skills: Critical thinking fosters students' ability to organize their thoughts, support their arguments with evidence, and write cohesively. By teaching students to critically evaluate their writing, teachers can help them become better writers in English.

4. Problem-solving Skills: Critical thinking encourages students to think creatively and solve complex language-related problems. In the context of teaching English, this skill enables students to overcome language barriers, explore different perspectives, and develop effective communication strategies.

5. Enhanced Communication Skills: Critical thinking helps students analyze information, form logical arguments, and express their ideas clearly and persuasively. By honing their critical thinking skills, students can become more effective communicators in English, both in written and oral forms.

6. Encourages Autonomy and Independence: By promoting critical thinking in the English classroom, teachers empower students to take ownership of their learning process. Critical thinking encourages independent thinking, self-reflection, and the ability to evaluate and improve one's language skills.

Teaching critical thinking skills in English can lead to more efficient and proficient language learners. It helps students navigate the complexities of the language and become confident communicators in academic and real-world settings.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, incorporating learning and critical thinking improves student engagement with the subject content, particularly while studying foreign languages.

Critical thinking requires students to analyze, evaluate, and explain the issue under debate. It is frequently associated with problem-solving and communication. Critical thinking requires pupils to be able to perceive and evaluate various possibilities [3;19.]. Educators may help students improve their understanding of lessons by encouraging them to reflect on them.

However, learning in controlled contexts is not the best technique of teaching. Education aims to develop critical thinking skills, supporting fundamental human qualities [4;74.].

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