



The Role of Critical Thinking in Foreign Language Teaching

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Abstract: This article presents analysis and opinions on the role of critical thinking in foreign language teaching and its impacts. Moreover, methods for developing critical thinking and the main goals of developing critical thinking in foreign language teaching are provided in this paper.

Key words: critical thinking, thoughts, educational process, acquisitions, analysis, development

The future of any developing society, including Uzbekistan, is determined by the level of development of its education system. Reforming and improving the lifelong education system of our country, which is following the path of independent development, raising it to a new level of quality, introducing advanced pedagogical and information technologies into it, and increasing the efficiency of education have been raised to the level of state policy. The development of pedagogical technologies and their implementation in the educational process, as well as the rapid exchange and improvement of information technologies, opportunities were created for each person to strengthen their professional training and skills. The effective organization of foreign language teaching and the educational process is carried out in accordance with the state educational standard, and foreign language learners are required to make independent decisions, think critically and at the same time improve their professional skills and acquisitions. Whatever methodological technologies are used in the modern educational process, their aims are based on the need of the time to increase the mental or critical thinking of students, in other words, foreign language learners should make it a goal.

The real reason for bringing critical thinking into foreign languages is that the correct understanding of words and phrases in terms of usage provides a valuable opportunity to use these words in other contexts and at other times in their meaning. That is to say during the process of communication, our brain receives, synthesizes, analyzes information and, thinking in response to these processes represents its analysis through using vocabulary. In other words, we think critically and creatively to speak the language of foreign countries. When asked about the meaning of critical creative thinking, thoughts and language flow directly into the human imagination. To understand thoughts correctly, firstly one must analyze the ideas conveyed through language and always express their opinions correctly. Because sometimes people can't even analyze their thoughts. William Hughes and Jonathan Lavery say: "To understand ideas, we need to pay close attention to the relationship between thought and language, because this relationship seems simple, but in many cases people do not understand the meaning of their words. Because we use words not only to express thoughts, but also to form them. So, it is not only about using words to speak foreign languages, but first of all, we need to analyze and then express our thoughts. A learner who begins to

think critically uses a written method of expressing their thoughts while learning foreign languages. In one of John C. Bean's studies on thinking in the target language and expressing it in writing, thoughts related to a particular written topic in foreign languages, He reported: " We struggle with emphasizing writing and critical thinking, and in many cases writing struggle, in which the education of thinking is associated with the growth of a person's intellectual powers usually becomes a real feature of student education"

Critical thinking is considered as an integral part of human thinking, and people draw a conclusion to every event they see based on their mental abilities. If we analyze critical thinking more deeply, we can see that in the scientific works of medieval thinkers who lived and worked in the Near and Middle East, there is a serious interest in various aspects of science, its principles, structure, criteria and the connection between science and human intellectual development and education Rish Mukin. A characteristic feature of the epistemological views of our great ancestors Khorezmi, Farabi, Beruni, Ibn Sina, their comrades and followers is that the process of abstracting the image of an object in the human mind has always attracted their attention, As a result the essence and uniqueness of this object was developed and the concept was formed . We can see that critical thinking is used in different ways throughout the lesson. For example: If we consider exercises focused on critical thinking; Followings are discussed in the article "7 Ways to Teach Critical Thinking," published on the Walden University online channel :

- To ask questions - Asking questions, especially, open-ended ones gives students the opportunity to freely express their knowledge and skills. At the same time, assessing the problem from a different point of view creates the conditions for self-assessment through thinking, the teacher must guide students in the practical application of acquired knowledge and evaluation of decisions. This teaches teachers to find different options to solve a decision-making problem in different situations and make the most ideal decision.

- Teach teamworking - Working in a group on a project and facilitating discussions are another great ways to improve students' critical thinking skills. Group discussions allow each member of the group to express their opinions, put forward their ideas and support them with facts.

- Learn to take into account different points of view - learning to make the most optimal decision, taking into account the variety of opinions that may arise during team work.

Connect different ideas - For example; When a teacher asks students during a lesson what type of transport is best for traveling, students naturally give answers ranging from bicycles to airplanes. Critical thinking teaches you to think through all the answers.

- Inspire creativity - If we do not deny that students' imaginations vary, the definition of this phrase is clearly shown. For example; There is no doubt that working on a project design will be different if you assign a project drawing assignment in class.

- Brainstorm - One of the most favorite activities of students is brainstorming, which teaches them to solve a problem or answer a question in a few seconds and it is important to develop this ability.

The importance of critical thinking in foreign language teaching is incomparable, and nowadays, enhancing students' critical thinking is one of the tasks of foreign language teachers. Many different factors can affect students' critical thinking skills. M. Lipman, S. Norris and R. Ennis, who conducted educational research, presented their approaches to critical thinking. There are no big differences in the definitions they give; according to L. Elder and R. Paul, critical thinking means the ability of the individual to manage their own thinking and developing appropriate criteria and standards for analyzing their own thoughts. In addition, as V. Maiorana noted, critical thinking is the process aimed at understanding and evaluating different points of view and solving problems. The skills required for critical thinking vary and include observation, analysis, interpretation,

reflection, evaluation, inference, explanation, problem solving, and decision making. Although the importance of using critical thinking lessons for students of all ages is immeasurable, we must remember our role as teachers and what we need to do to achieve our goals, and we should always design lessons with these aspects in mind.

In the course of the study, it has shown that as a result of observing students struggling to develop critical thinking, only 6-8 out of 30 students in a voluntarily selected group could communicate in foreign languages. Why can't other students do this? Although grammatical knowledge is almost the same, different problems arise in speaking: the problem of memorization, misunderstanding of the topic, inability to adequately assess situations, etc. The basis of these problems is the lack of regular work with the mind and subconscious systems, lack of attention to the ability of thinking and reasoning. On the contrary, students who have worked for a long time on themselves and on the analysis of their thoughts, analyzing works on various topics have the ability to master, understand, express and critically evaluate the issue. This experiment was carried out among students in a group selected with their consent, and the processes of observation and analysis were carried out. Research shows that critical thinking is not an innate or naturally formed ability, but it is not an exaggeration to say that critical thinking is a process of learning and teaching. Widespread use of activities that develop critical thinking in the classroom requires a high level of skills from foreign language.

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