

## TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING IN ENGLISH LESSONS

**Ahmedova Shahzoda Adhamjon kizi**

Fergana region

Beshariq district

Technical school No. 1

English language teacher

**Abstract.** This article analyzes modern pedagogical technologies that serve to develop students' critical thinking skills in English lessons. Critical thinking is one of the important competencies of today's education system, which forms students' abilities to analyze, evaluate, compare information and draw independent conclusions. The article highlights the practical importance of such technologies as debate, problem-based learning, project method, "Brainstorming", "Cluster", "INSERT" and "Fish Skeleton" in the process of teaching English. Also, the impact of these methods on students' communicative competence and creative thinking is shown on the basis of examples. The results of the study show that the use of critical thinking technologies in English lessons increases educational effectiveness and ensures active participation of students.

**Keywords:** critical thinking, English language education, innovative technologies, problem-based learning, debate, project method, communicative competence, interactive methods, creative thinking, pedagogical technologies.

In the process of globalization, the thorough study of foreign languages has become one of the priorities of modern education. English is widely used worldwide as the language of international communication, science, business and technology. Therefore, teaching English requires not only the formation of language skills, but also the development of such competencies as independent thinking, problem-solving and critical analysis of information.

Critical thinking is the ability to analyze information, evaluate evidence, compare different points of view and draw well-founded conclusions. Developing these skills in English lessons increases students' interest in learning the language and prepares them to communicate effectively in real-life situations.

Critical thinking is part of the skills of the 21st century. In modern society, people are required to perceive a large amount of information, sort it out and make the right decisions[1]. Developing critical thinking in English lessons provides the following advantages:

- develops students' independent thinking;
- forms logical analysis skills;
- increases problem-solving skills;
- develops communicative competence;
- stimulates a creative approach.

Such skills are important not only in language learning, but also in mastering other subjects.

The debate method is one of the most effective methods in English lessons. This method teaches students to justify their opinions on a particular topic, provide evidence, and analyze opposing opinions.

For example, when a debate is organized on the topic “Should social media be limited for teenagers?”, students are divided into two groups. One group defends the benefits of social networks, and the other group defends the negative aspects. As a result, students develop critical thinking skills along with communicating freely in English.

Instead of providing students with ready-made knowledge, problem-based learning exposes them to a problem situation and encourages them to find a solution[1].

For example, the teacher asks the following question:

"How can we reduce environmental pollution in our city?"

Students work in groups to develop various proposals, compare them, and choose the most suitable option. This process develops analytical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Project-based learning is one of the effective tools for developing critical thinking. Students conduct independent research on a specific topic, collect information, and prepare a final presentation.

For example, in the process of preparing a project on the topic “Famous Historical Places of Uzbekistan”, students study various sources, analyze facts, and make a presentation in English.

As a result:

independent research skills are developed;

the ability to select and evaluate information is formed;

speech activity is improved.

“Brainstorming” is one of the methods that activates students’ creative and critical thinking. At the beginning of the lesson, students are asked to come up with as many ideas as possible on a specific topic.

For example, on the topic “Ways to Improve English Skills”, students make various suggestions. Later, these ideas are analyzed and the most effective options are selected[3].

This method allows students to think freely and express their point of view.

INSERT (Interactive Noting System for Effective Reading and Thinking) technology is widely used in working with text.

Students use the following symbols when reading the text:

✓ - known information;

- new information;

- information that contradicts previous knowledge;

? - information that is unclear or requires additional explanation.

This technology develops students' skills in analyzing the text in depth and assessing their own knowledge.

The Fishbone method serves to identify the causes and consequences of a problem. Students write the problem in the center and represent its causes and solutions in the form of a diagram[3].

For example, on the topic “Why do students have difficulties in learning English?”:

low motivation;  
poor vocabulary;  
lack of practice;  
factors such as incorrect reading strategies  
are identified and appropriate solutions are developed.

Effectiveness of critical thinking technologies

Practical experience shows that in lessons based on critical thinking, students participate more actively than in traditional lessons. They are more inclined to ask questions, exchange ideas, and make independent decisions.

Such technologies:

increase students' motivation;  
develop English communication skills;  
form analytical and creative thinking;  
strengthen students' self-confidence[2].

Also, critical thinking technologies serve to implement a person-centered model of education.

The use of critical thinking development technologies in English lessons is one of the important requirements of modern education. Methods such as debate, problem-based learning, project method, "Brainstorming", INSERT, and Fishbone develop students' independent thinking, analysis, and communication competencies. With the help of these technologies, students not only learn English effectively, but also develop into active and creative individuals capable of solving life problems. Therefore, it is advisable for English teachers to widely use technologies that develop critical thinking in the classroom.

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