

THE ROLE OF INDEPENDENT LEARNING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENCIES

Saida Ubaydullayevna Sultankhodjayeva

Senior Lecturer, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies

ABSTRACT

This article examines the development of students' core competencies through independent learning activities in the process of language education. The interrelationship among information-processing, communicative, critical thinking, and self-development competencies is analyzed, and effective methods for their formation are discussed. In particular, approaches such as storytelling, project-based learning, and problem-based learning are considered effective tools for enhancing these competencies.

Keywords: *independent learning, competence, language teaching, critical thinking, communicative approach, information, methodology.*

ANNOTATSIYA

Mazkur maqolada til ta'limi jarayonida talabalarning mustaqil ta'lim faoliyati orqali tayanch kompetensiyalarini rivojlantirish masalalari o'rganiladi. Axborot bilan ishlash, kommunikativ, tanqidiy fikrlash va o'zini rivojlantirish kompetensiyalari o'rtasidagi o'zaro bog'liqlik tahlil qilinadi hamda ularni shakllantirishning samarali usullari muhokama qilinadi. Xususan, storytelling, loyiha asosida o'qitish va muammoli o'qitish yondashuvlari ushbu kompetensiyalarni rivojlantirishda samarali vositalar sifatida ko'rib chiqiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: *mustaqil ta'lim, kompetensiya, til o'qitish, tanqidiy fikrlash, kommunikativ yondashuv, axborot, metodologiya.*

АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье рассматривается развитие ключевых компетенций студентов посредством самостоятельной учебной деятельности в процессе языкового образования. Анализируется взаимосвязь информационно-обработоческой, коммуникативной, критического мышления и саморазвивающей компетенций, а также обсуждаются эффективные методы их формирования. В частности, такие подходы, как сторителлинг, проектное обучение и проблемное обучение, рассматриваются как эффективные инструменты развития данных компетенций.

Ключевые слова: самостоятельное обучение, компетенция, преподавание языка, критическое мышление, коммуникативный подход, информация, методология.

INTRODUCTION

In the modern education system, the process of language teaching is not limited only to the acquisition of linguistic knowledge, but also requires the development of students' independent thinking, communication skills, and the ability to manage their own learning. In this regard, independent learning emerges as an integral component of language teaching [3:288].

At the same time, the competency-based approach requires organizing the educational process in a results-oriented manner. This implies that students should not merely receive knowledge in a ready-made form, but should independently search for, analyze, and apply it [9:270]. Thus, independent learning and competencies are mutually interconnected and complement each other. In order to understand this interrelation more deeply, it is first necessary to analyze the pedagogical essence of independent learning.

Research aim. The aim of this article is to analyze the possibilities of developing students' competencies through independent learning activities in language teaching, to highlight the role of independent learning in forming information-processing, communicative, critical thinking, problem-solving, and self-development competencies, and to substantiate modern pedagogical methods and task systems that support the development of these competencies.

Research methods. The study employs pedagogical observation, analysis and synthesis, comparative analysis, competency-based approach, and the study of scientific-methodological literature. In addition, the effectiveness of independent learning tasks, storytelling, project-based learning, and problem-based learning methods in language teaching was analyzed theoretically.

MAIN PART

1. Pedagogical Essence of Independent Learning

Independent learning is an activity aimed at the student's autonomous acquisition of knowledge, in which the teacher plays a guiding role while the main activity is performed by the student [8:68]. In this sense, it is an important element of learner-centered education.

In language teaching, independent learning is particularly important, as language acquisition is not limited to classroom instruction. For instance, students expand their knowledge by independently reading texts, listening to audio materials,

or completing writing tasks. Such activities form the basis for developing competencies at later stages.

2. Systematic Development of Competencies through Independent Learning

When independent learning is properly organized, competencies develop in an interconnected manner.

2.1. Information-processing competence

First, students need to learn how to independently search for and process information. This leads to the formation of information competence [13:256].

For example:

“Find a text from a foreign source about the modern education system and write a summary.”

The student identifies key ideas and reformulates them, thereby developing analytical skills.

2.2. Communicative competence

After processing information, students attempt to communicate it to others, which develops communicative competence [4:269–293].

For example:

“Speak about your future goals.”

or

“Is online education effective?”

Students express their opinions and listen to others, deepening communication skills.

2.3. Critical thinking competence

During communicative activities, different viewpoints emerge, requiring analysis and evaluation [2:268].

For example:

“Technology makes life easier, but also creates problems.”

Students analyze arguments and draw conclusions independently.

2.4. Problem-solving competence

As critical thinking develops, students begin to identify and solve problems [5:345].

For example:

“A student’s language level is insufficient, but they want to study abroad.”

Students propose solutions such as regular practice, additional courses, and independent learning strategies.

2.5. Self-development competence

All previous stages ultimately lead to self-development competence [7:135], which reflects the ability to manage one's own learning process.

For example, a student may create a plan including daily vocabulary learning, regular reading and listening practice, and self-assessment.

3. Methods of Organizing Independent Learning

To develop these competencies, the following methods are effective:

- **Storytelling method** enables contextual learning and develops communicative and creative skills. For example, students create a story on “My Future Profession,” expressing ideas logically and creatively.
- **Project-based learning** teaches students to work independently, search for resources, and process information systematically.
- **Problem-based learning** develops analytical thinking by presenting real-life situations requiring independent solutions.

These methods complement each other and ensure the integrated development of competencies.

4. Principles of Designing Independent Tasks

1. **Logical consistency** – tasks should be structured progressively based on the student's level.

Example: Read an article, extract key ideas, and summarize in 100 words.

2. **Practical orientation** – tasks should apply knowledge in real situations. Example: Speak for 2 minutes about future goals and write a 150-word summary.

3. **Creative approach** – tasks should encourage independent thinking and decision-making.

Example: Write a 250–300-word essay on “How technology affects language learning.”

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, independent learning serves as a key tool in the development of students' competencies in language teaching. It enables learners not only to acquire theoretical knowledge but also to apply it in practice, analyze information, and develop independent thinking skills.

Competency development occurs in a gradual and interconnected manner: information-processing competence forms the basis, communicative competence develops expression skills, critical thinking and problem-solving competencies enhance analytical abilities, and self-development competence ensures autonomous learning.

Modern pedagogical methods such as storytelling, project-based learning, and problem-based learning significantly enhance this process by integrating creative, analytical, and communicative skills.

As a result, independent learning helps students combine theoretical knowledge with practical skills, develop competencies systematically, and become independent, creative, and self-directed learners in the modern educational environment.

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