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THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE CONTEXT IN TEACHING PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (AS AN EXAMPLE OF TEACHING ENGLISH)

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Abstract. Early foreign language education plays a crucial role in shaping children’s cognitive and social development. In the modern globalized world, English has become an essential tool for international communication. Teaching English in primary school not only improves linguistic skills but also introduces learners to different cultures and values. Cultural elements such as traditions, holidays, songs, and stories help young learners understand the language in a meaningful context. This article discusses the importance of integrating cultural aspects into English language teaching at the primary level and highlights how early exposure to culture enhances intercultural competence, tolerance, and motivation. The study concludes that combining language and culture creates more effective and engaging learning environments for young students.

Key words:

Early language learning; Primary education; English language teaching; Cultural integration; Intercultural competence; Young learners; Communicative approach; Global education.

Аннотация.Раннее обучение иностранному языку играет важную роль в когнитивном и социальном развитии детей. В условиях современной глобализации английский язык стал важнейшим средством международного общения. Обучение английскому языку в начальной школе не только развивает лингвистические навыки, но и знакомит учащихся с различными культурами и ценностями. Такие культурные элементы, как традиции, праздники, песни и рассказы, помогают младшим школьникам понимать язык в содержательном контексте. В данной статье рассматривается значение интеграции культурных аспектов в процесс преподавания английского языка на начальном этапе обучения, а также подчеркивается, что раннее знакомство с культурой

способствует формированию межкультурной компетенции, толерантности и мотивации. Исследование показывает, что сочетание языка и культуры создает более эффективную и увлекательную образовательную среду для младших школьников.

Ключевые слова:

Раннее изучение языка; Начальное образование; Преподавание английского языка; Культурная интеграция; Межкультурная компетенция; Младшие школьники; Коммуникативный подход; Глобальное образование.

Annotatsiya. Xorijiy tilni erta o‘qitish bolalarning kognitiv va ijtimoiy rivojlanishida muhim rol o‘ynaydi. Zamonaviy globallashuv davrida ingliz tili xalqaro muloqotning muhim vositasiga aylandi. Boshlang‘ich maktabda ingliz tilini o‘qitish nafaqat lingvistik ko‘nikmalarni rivojlantiradi, balki o‘quvchilarni turli madaniyat va qadriyatlar bilan tanishtiradi. An’analar, bayramlar, qo‘shiqlar va hikoyalar kabi madaniy elementlar yosh o‘quvchilarga tilni mazmunli kontekstda tushunishga yordam beradi. Mazkur maqolada boshlang‘ich ta’lim bosqichida ingliz tilini o‘qitishda madaniy jihatlarni integratsiya qilishning ahamiyati muhokama qilinadi hamda madaniyat bilan erta tanishish o‘quvchilarda madaniyatlararo kompetensiya, bag‘rikenglik va motivatsiyani qanday rivojlantirishi yoritiladi. Tadqiqot shuni ko‘rsatadiki, til va madaniyatni uyg‘unlashtirish yosh o‘quvchilar uchun yanada samarali va qiziqarli ta’lim muhitini yaratadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Erta til o‘rganish; Boshlang‘ich ta’lim; Ingliz tilini o‘qitish; Madaniy integratsiya; Madaniyatlararo kompetensiya; Yosh o‘quvchilar; Kommunikativ yondashuv; Global ta’lim.

Introduction. In today’s globalized society, English is widely recognized as an international language of communication. As a result, many educational systems introduce English at the primary school level. Early language learning is considered highly effective because children are more receptive to new sounds, vocabulary, and cultural concepts.

However, teaching a language is not limited to grammar and vocabulary. Language and culture are closely connected. When young learners are exposed to cultural elements such as traditions, celebrations, stories, and everyday life practices of English-speaking countries, they develop not only linguistic competence but also intercultural awareness. Therefore, integrating culture into English language teaching at the primary level is essential for holistic development.

METHODOLOGY

Many researchers emphasize the importance of early foreign language instruction. According to studies on early language acquisition, young learners have a natural ability to imitate pronunciation and absorb new vocabulary more easily than older students. This critical period of language development allows children to develop near-native pronunciation and

communicative competence when exposed to a second language at an early age.In addition to linguistic development, scholars highlight the strong connection between language and culture. Language is not only a system of grammar and words; it also reflects traditions, values, beliefs, and social behavior. For this reason, modern teaching approaches stress the importance of integrating cultural elements into the classroom.The communicative approach to language teaching supports the idea that students learn more effectively when language is presented in meaningful and authentic contexts.

RESULTS

Cultural materials such as songs, stories, celebrations, and real-life situations provide such contexts. Furthermore, the concept of intercultural competence suggests that students should not only learn how to speak a foreign language but also understand cultural differences and develop respect for other cultures.Therefore, integrating culture into primary English education is supported by both linguistic and pedagogical research

DISCUSSION

Integrating cultural elements into English lessons for primary school students significantly enhances their learning experience. Young learners are naturally curious and motivated when they explore new traditions, celebrations, and everyday practices from English-speaking countries. For example, teaching about holidays such as Christmas or Halloween allows students to learn vocabulary, phrases, and customs simultaneously, making lessons engaging and memorable.Songs, stories, and animated videos also play an essential role in cultural education. Through familiar narratives and melodies, children acquire language patterns while understanding cultural values, such as cooperation, politeness, and diversity. This approach not only improves linguistic skills but also fosters intercultural awareness and tolerance from an early age.

Moreover, cultural integration encourages active participation and creativity. Students often participate in role-plays, crafts, and discussions about cultural topics, which strengthens both their speaking abilities and critical thinking. By connecting language learning with cultural experiences, educators can create a holistic learning environment where children are not only learning English but also developing a global perspective.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, teaching English to primary school students through cultural contexts is highly beneficial for both linguistic and personal development. Early exposure to cultural elements such as traditions, holidays, stories, and songs enhances vocabulary acquisition, pronunciation, and communicative competence. At the same time, children develop intercultural awareness, tolerance, and an appreciation for diversity, which are essential skills in today’s globalized world.

By integrating culture into language instruction, educators can create engaging and meaningful learning experiences that motivate students and foster lifelong interest in learning English. Therefore, combining language and culture in primary education is not only an effective teaching strategy but also a crucial step in preparing young learners for global communication and understanding.

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