



## INNOVATIVE METHODS FOR DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT THINKING SKILLS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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### Annotation

This article discusses the relevance of developing independent thinking skills in primary school students, the innovative methods used in this process, and the importance of modern pedagogical technologies in the educational process of independent thinking and the development of students as complete individuals.

**Keywords:** independent thinking, primary education, innovative methods, interactive methods, critical thinking, problem-based learning.

Independent thinking is one of the main goals of any education system today. Especially at the primary education stage, the formation of students' independent thinking skills is important for preparing them for the future educational process and solving life problems. Independent thinking is the ability of students to think independently, develop problem-solving strategies, and form their own conclusions. A number of scientists have conducted scientific research on the formation of independent thinking. J. Dewey proposed a teaching methodology based on activity and experience in the educational process, which emphasizes the practical importance of independent thinking (Dewey, 1933). Lev Vygotsky, on the other hand, emphasized that students' thinking skills develop as a result of social interaction and noted the importance of communication with teachers and peers (Vygotsky, 1978). J. Piaget's theory of intellectual development also shows the gradual formation of students' independent thinking skills. According to him, the child connects new knowledge with previous experiences, and in this process his cognitive development occurs (Piaget, 1952). Independent thinking develops students' creative approach and problem-solving skills. According to Torrance's theory of creativity, a person's creative thinking depends on his ability to solve problems through different approaches (Torrance, 1966). According to R. Ennis, critical thinking is a person's ability to draw conclusions based on clear and well-founded evidence (Ennis, 1987). This skill teaches students to analyze and evaluate any information. Independent thinking students are successful in analyzing problems and finding innovative solutions to them. P. Freire emphasized that students' active thinking depends on their life experiences and the importance of a dialogical approach in education (Freire, 1970). According to A. Bandura's social learning theory, a person's ability to make independent decisions develops depending on the environment and experiences (Bandura, 1986). Students who are taught to think independently will have the opportunity to make informed decisions in their lives. In modern educational conditions, students must have the ability to isolate and use the right information in a huge flow of information. Clark and Holmes (2010) emphasize that independent analysis of information and its effective use are one of the key skills today.

A student who can think independently is not only able to memorize knowledge, but also to use it in practice, and to make independent decisions. In teaching primary school students to think independently, creating and analyzing problem situations in the lesson process, using interactive methods within the subject in the lesson, and using modern information technologies are effective. Instead of giving students ready-made knowledge, it is necessary to create conditions for them to solve problems independently. For example:

- Conducting discussions with the questions "Why?"
- Creating projects based on life issues
- Organizing role-playing games on solving problems

Problem questions and situations for students are selected depending on the age, physiological and psychological characteristics of the students, and the level of thinking. The selected problem situation should be appropriate for the age of the students, organized within the framework of the subject, topic. The primary education stage plays an important role in the formation of a child's thinking. It is during this period that students' independent thinking, problem-solving, critical and creative approach skills are developed. According to pedagogical research, some subjects play an important role in the formation of independent thinking skills. In primary education, the subject of the mother tongue helps to develop students' logical thinking, the ability to clearly express their thoughts, and the ability to take an analytical approach. Independent thinking can be developed in this subject through the following methods:

- Analyzing texts and extract the main idea;
- Expressing opinions through question-and-answer and discussion methods;
- Composing written essays and creative stories.

Mathematics is also one of the main tools for independent thinking. This subject develops logical thinking, problem-solving skills, and analytical thinking. The development of independent thinking in mathematics is carried out through independent work on problems and examples, solving a problem in different ways, and developing thinking through logical games and puzzles. Natural science develops students' abilities to observe, analyze, and draw conclusions. The development of independent thinking through this subject is manifested through conducting experiments and analyzing results, creating questions and answers and problem situations, observing natural phenomena and drawing conclusions about them. Technology and fine arts contribute to the formation of creative thinking and independent decision-making skills. The following approaches can be effective within these subjects:

- Independent project and craft activities;
- Drawing and designing on a specific topic;
- Tasks that develop creative thinking.

In reading literacy lessons, creating problem situations in the process of analyzing situations and developing students' attitudes towards characters through literary texts is important in developing students' independent thinking skills. In primary education, interactive methods, problem-based learning, and experience-based teaching methods play an important role in developing independent thinking across disciplines. Therefore, primary education teachers should organize an educational process aimed at developing students' independent thinking. By using interactive methods in the lesson, it is possible to increase students' activity in the lesson and develop their independent thinking skills. Increasing learning efficiency and educating learners as comprehensively mature individuals is an important requirement in the education system. It is precisely in this process that improving the quality of lessons, the

knowledge of young people, educating independent thinkers, and educating a generation that can find solutions to any problem are among the main tasks facing education. The importance and role of interactive methods in achieving these goals are great. In interactive learning methods, students are involved throughout the entire learning process, providing sufficient student participation and practice to develop their knowledge, skills, and independent thinking.

The organization of the learning process, which is supposed to be student-centered, brings a number of advantages, and interactive methods serve to increase the effectiveness of the educational process. Through interactive methods, students actively participate in the lesson process and have the opportunity to freely express their thoughts. Interactive teaching methods are very diverse and include the question-and-answer method, the discussion method, the conversation method, the group discussion method, the discovery learning method, the group cooperation method, the practical training method, the debate method, the research method, the role-playing method, the project method, the independent learning method, the learning method by teaching others, the brainstorming method, the pinboard method, the dictionary method, the conference method, the pair-by-pair communication method, the voting method, the "Charxpakalak" method, and a number of other methods. Currently, the most effective interactive methods are the methods of "Aqliy hujum", "Klaster", "Sinkveyn", "Venn diagrammalar", "Insert". These methods are widely used today and have proven their effectiveness. When using the "Aqliy hujum" method, it is possible to involve and activate all students in the lesson process, including the formation of a culture of communication and discussion among students, and respect for each other's opinions. Students develop the ability to express their opinions not only orally, but also in writing, and the ability to think logically and systematically. The lack of evaluation of the expressed opinions leads to the formation of different ideas in students. This method serves to develop creative thinking in students. At the same time, creating conditions for topic-specific debates in lessons is also important in forming students' independent thinking skills. The role of modern information technologies in teaching students to think independently is invaluable.

Independent thinking is one of the most effective ways to develop students' creative, critical, and logical thinking skills. This process requires the teacher to use modern pedagogical technologies, communicate with students, and encourage them to engage in independent research. Educators should use interactive teaching methods, such as problem-based learning, discussion, and project methods, to develop independent thinking. Therefore, the formation of independent thinking skills in the educational process has a significant impact not only on the intellectual development of students, but also on their future personal and professional success. When using modern information media, independent learning of the concept of the task given during the lesson through electronic learning platforms, creating online projects on the topic, and using information technologies to make the educational process interesting through game elements covering science and the subject, plays an important role in forming the ability to think freely.

The formation of independent thinking skills in primary school students is one of the important areas of the modern education system. This requires the effective use of problem-based learning, interactive methods, information technologies, and research methods. Developing students' independent thinking skills through innovative approaches is essential for increasing the intellectual potential of the future generation.

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# Western European Journal of Linguistics and Education

Volume 3, Issue 3, March, 2025

<https://westerneuropeanstudies.com/index.php/2>

ISSN (E): 2942-190X

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