

“THE ROLE OF CRITICAL THINKING IN TEACHING ENGLISH”

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ANNOTATION

These days learning foreign languages are the essential demand of our society and English has become a universal language. The English language becomes the means of international communication, the language of trade, education, politics and economics. In today's modernized society, all come across to the role of critical thinking while they are learning English. With the help of critical thinking, students can improve their knowledge stock deeply and use English in every field of life.

This research paper is devoted to the investigation of teaching critical thinking in English. The work includes several theories by scientists, examples and rules for teaching critical thinking easily. Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas. Critical thinking has been the subject of much debate and thought since the time of early Greek philosophers such as Plato and Socrates and has continued to be a subject of discussion into the modern age. The earliest records of critical thinking are the teachings of Socrates recorded by Plato. These included a part in Plato's early dialogues, where Socrates engages with one or more interlocutors on the issue of ethics such as question whether it was right for Socrates to escape from prison. The philosopher considered and reflected on this question and came to the conclusion that escape violates all the things that he holds higher than himself: the laws of Athens and the guiding voice that Socrates claims to hear. Socrates established the fact that one cannot depend upon those in "authority" to have sound knowledge and insight¹.

Keywords: critical, logically, evidence, analyzing, question, assumption, intelligence.

"Critical thinking is a type of thinking pattern that requires people to be reflective, and pay attention to decision-making which guides their beliefs and actions. Critical thinking allows people to deduct with more logic, to process sophisticated information and look at various sides of an issue so they can produce more solid conclusions." Critical thinking has seven critical features: being inquisitive and curious, being open-minded to different sides, being able to think systematically, being analytical, being persistent to truth, being confident about critical thinking itself, and lastly, being mature. Although critical thinking could be defined in several different

¹ Visser, Jan; Visser, Muriel. Seeking Understanding: The Lifelong Pursuit to Build the Scientific Mind. Leiden: BRILL. p. 233. ISBN 978-90-04-41680-2. (2019).

ways, there is a general agreement in its key component—the desire to reach for a satisfactory result, and this should be achieved by rational thinking and result-driven manner. Halpern thinks that critical thinking firstly involves learned abilities such as problem-solving, calculation and successful probability application. It also includes a tendency to engage the thinking process. In recent times, Stanovich believed that modern IQ testing could hardly measure the ability of critical thinking. "Critical thinking is essentially a questioning, challenging approach to knowledge and perceived wisdom. It involves ideas and information from an objective position and then questioning this information in the light of our own values, attitudes and personal philosophy."²

Historically, the teaching of critical thinking focused only on logical procedures such as formal and informal logic. This emphasized to students that good thinking is equivalent to logical thinking.

It is clear that teachers need some special rules in order to teach efficiently and there are given examples related to critical thinking:

1. Begin With a Question

Starting with a question is the most straightforward foray into the subject. What do you want to explore and discuss? It shouldn't be a question you can answer with a 'yes' or a 'no.'

2. Utilize Peer Groups

There is comfort in numbers, as the saying goes. Digital kids thrive in environments involving teamwork and collaboration. Show kids their peers are an excellent source of information, questions, and problem-solving techniques.

3. Try One Sentence

Try this exercise: form groups of 8-10 students. Next, instruct each student to write one sentence describing a topic on a piece of paper. The student then passes the paper to the next student who adds their understanding of the next step in a single sentence. This time, though, that student folds the paper down to cover their sentence. Now only their sentence is visible and no other, so each time they pass students can see one sentence. Two of the main methods that can be used in introducing critical thinking skills in the classroom are :

Socratic Questioning

This was developed by Socrates the early Greek Philosopher and is still relevant today .It relates to the importance of looking for evidence,questioning always ,analyzing and realizing implementation . There is no value in feeding students endless facts and content to remember parrot fashion .Students should be encouraged to ask questions about a subject and learn from the answers drawing up their own conclusions.

² Judge, Brenda; McCreery, Elaine; Jones, Patrick Critical Thinking Skills for Education Students. SAGE. p. 9. ISBN 978-1-84445-556-0. (2009).

Teachers should respond to all answers with a further question. Stimulate students to ask further questions and in so doing establish connections between various topics. In this way teachers can help students to discover facts for themselves.³

RED Critical thinking

This was introduced by Watson and Glaser in the 1930's. The acronym for RED stands for :

Recognize assumptions - separating fact from opinion

Evaluate Arguments - Ability to analyze evidence objectively

Draw conclusions - Arrive at logical conclusions.⁴

Critical Thinking skills teach a variety of skills that can be applied to any situation in life that calls for reflection, analysis and planning.

Critical Thinking is a domain-general thinking skill. The ability to think clearly and rationally is important whatever we choose to do. If you work in education, research, finance, management or the legal profession, then critical thinking is obviously important. But critical thinking skills are not restricted to a particular subject area. Being able to think well and solve problems systematically is an asset for any career.

Critical Thinking is very important in the new knowledge economy. The global knowledge economy is driven by information and technology. One has to be able to deal with changes quickly and effectively. The new economy places increasing demands on flexible intellectual skills, and the ability to analyse information and integrate diverse sources of knowledge in solving problems. Good critical thinking promotes such thinking skills, and is very important in the fast-changing workplace.⁵

Critical Thinking enhances language and presentation skills. Thinking clearly and systematically can improve the way we express our ideas. In learning how to analyse the logical structure of texts, critical thinking also improves comprehension abilities.

Critical Thinking is crucial for self-reflection. In order to live a meaningful life and to structure our lives accordingly, we need to justify and reflect on our values and decisions. Critical thinking provides the tools for this process of self-evaluation.

According to the research we may conclude:

Critical thinking is the ability to analyze the way you think and present evidence for your ideas, rather than simply accepting your personal reasoning as sufficient proof. You can gain numerous benefits from mastering critical thinking skills, such as better control of your own learning and empathy for other points of view. Critical thinking is, in short, self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective thinking. It presupposes assent to rigorous standards of excellence and mindful command of their

³ <https://wabisabilearning.com/blogs/critical-thinking/critical-thinking-benefits>

⁴ <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/learn/critical-thinking.html>

⁵ Linda Elder president & senior fellow and Richard Paul Critical Thinking: Tools for Taking Charge of Your Learning and Your Life, Sep 10, 2001

use. It entails effective communication and problem solving abilities and a commitment to overcome our native egocentrism and sociocentrism.

Importance of teaching critical thinking skills in the classroom is that it has become an essential skill in today's world. Students need to learn to develop better critical thinking skills. It is almost too easy these days to go on the internet and find instant answers to questions. The result is that students are falling behind in their ability to ask the correct questions and analyze those answers.

What is Critical thinking? This has been described as :

- The ability to ask the right questions
- Recognize the difference between suggested assumptions and clear details.
- The ability to be able to differentiate between relevant and irrelevant information

"Critical thinking is a type of thinking pattern that requires people to be reflective, and pay attention to decision-making which guides their beliefs and actions. Critical thinking allows people to deduct with more logic, to process sophisticated information and look at various sides of an issue so they can produce more solid conclusions."⁶

Critical thinking has seven critical features: being inquisitive and curious, being open-minded to different sides, being able to think systematically, being analytical, being persistent to truth, being confident about critical thinking itself, and lastly, being mature.

Critical thinking teaches students how to be their own person and not to take everything they read on the internet at face value. Students who receive some training in critical thinking will adapt quickly to a university environment where such a skill is needed. Young people need to know how to think not what to think. In schools in Singapore, which are rated among the best in the world, at reading, maths and science, students are taught critical thinking skills.

In conclusion, critical thinking is the key of independence that allows students to think independently in all types of learning. It shows students that they are own people; they have their own ideas and personal characters. Critical thinking helps to discover students' unique abilities; it rises effectiveness and IQ.

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⁶ Dr Richard Paul and Linda Elder A Guide for Educators to Critical Thinking Competency Standards: Standards, Principles, Performance Indicators, and Outcomes with a Critical Thinking Master Rubric (Thinker's Guide Library) Part of: Thinker's Guide Library (20 Books), Jan 1, 2007

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THE LIST OF USED INTERNET SITES

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