

Developing Creative Consciousness Among Undergraduate Students in English Classes

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Abstract

Cognition mainly affects the internal and external factors to produce learning in individuals. Its use for learning helps in understanding information and concepts. Creativity is nothing but originality. Creative thinking skill is an essential element in most professions in this competitive world. This skill plays a vital part in every individual's progress. It is one of the basic skills needed by all the 21st century learner to survive and succeed. This paper attempts to give a clear picture about the importance and ways of sustaining it in our day to day life using literature as a vehicle.

Keywords: creative consciousness, undergraduate students, English classes, cognition, CTS, skill

Introduction

English is everywhere in and around the world. Language learners of all ages are immersing themselves in virtual worlds to learn English. Teachers have some responsibility to prepare students for the real demands of studying overseas. A lot of teachers think academic English is about preparing students for exams.

Creative Thinking

Today, education is intended not only to teach reading and writing skills to individuals, but to help them evaluate themselves, think both critically and creatively, Creative thinking requires people to look at things from new perspectives and to put information, notions and principles together in novel and innovative ways. Creative thinking skills involve in molding our thoughts and ideas to get new solutions.

Cognition

Cognition refers to mental activity including thinking, remembering, learning and using language. When we apply a cognitive approach to learning and teaching, we focus on the understanding of information and concepts

Metacognition

Metacognition is the process of thinking about one's own thought processes. Metacognitive skills include the ability to monitor one's own learning. Acquiring and using metacognitive skills has emerged as a powerful approach for promoting a focus on thinking skills in literacy and across all disciplines."

Creativity in Education

A good classroom environment has elements of creativity which makes more interesting and interactive. Creativity keeps engaged and active throughout. Creativity in classrooms transforms the way students acquire education and how they apply it in their real life. Creative expression plays a

key role in a student's emotional development. As Paul Coelho suggests, creativity, indeed, is part of us and is an attitude to life. We all need this and need to cultivate our ingrained creativity further.

Creativity in Language Classrooms

- Easy and ready flow in talking. Helpful in speaking
- Producing diverse ideas during conversation
- Improving responses from already existing ideas
- Producing uncommon and unusual original ideas.

Creative Method of Language Teaching

This is to suggest that creative method of language teaching will be fruitful in communicative classrooms. The learners must be made aware that the innovative abilities can be achieved only through practice. Realistic tasks and activities based on real-world situations can be designed. Task based activities can be made use of rather than exercises. While doing so, the learner happens to think through the mind of the characters about themselves and others.

The learner views the situation from others' point of view. It gives the emotional ability to feel what others feel. The presentation is made as near as possible to the real situation or event or object. Familiarity of the situations and the freedom to use their ideas creates interests, gain confidence and courage in the minds of the learners, and allow more meaningful conversations.

Activity 1

The following activity is named as "I know a word" .

The teacher utters a word which starts with the same sound you hear at the beginning. For example, 'Butterfly'.

Then, the learners are asked to tell the words related to that particular word and one representative from the class writes those words on the board.

As the task is very easy and interesting to the learners, they will shout to find their contribution to the class.

When the board is filled with words, the teacher asks the learners to frame a sentence for each word which tells something interesting about their uniqueness.

Every learner is asked to read the framed sentences.

With an example by the teacher, the learners are asked to give coherence to the word found by them.

Activity 2

The following activity is named as Spelling review

The teacher gives a word. For example, 'Documentary'.

Separate your class into two random teams.

Then, the learners from one team are asked to tell one letter of the words and the next letter by the other team.

The first person says "D," the second person says "O," the third person says "C," and so on. If one says the wrong letter, the next person says correct letter and fixes the mistake. The teacher rewards the group who performs without any mistakes.

Aspects of Creative Thinking

Creativity is a practice, and if we practice every day, we can develop creativity and innovation.

“The way I think is the way I behave.”

Creativity is placed at the top of Bloom’s Revised Taxonomy as one of the highest-order thinking skills. Creativity allows students to make new connections, to solve problems, and to express themselves in unique ways.

Dr. E. Paul Torrance identified four components of creativity. This helps in measuring and evaluating creativity.

Components of Creativity

- **Fluency** – the ability to generate quantities of ideas
- **Flexibility** – the ability to create different categories of ideas, and to perceive an idea from different points of view
- **Originality** – the ability to generate new, different, and unique ideas that others are not likely to generate
- **Elaboration** – the ability to expand on an idea by embellishing it with details or the ability to create an intricate plan

These four components of creative thinking work in harmony with each other, no one dominates during creative thought.



Conclusion

Brad Henry says, “A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning”.

Teachers should be responsible in taking greater responsibility towards students. Their creativity should be triggered towards experimentation and self-learning. Self-expression and confidence makes everyone master. Mere book reading with the ability of memory retention will not help them. Teachers should provide them a ‘comfort zone’ in their pursuit of knowledge.

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