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# Developing Critical Thinking Of Children While Using Digital Technologies

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#### Abstract

Developing critical thinking of children while using digital technologies is shown in this paper as digital learning platforms provide opportunities for children to engage with diverse cultures and perspectives, fostering empathy and understanding. Integrating critical thinking exercises into digital language learning prepares children for the demands of future careers, where cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills are paramount. **Keywords:** teaching, perspectives, critical thinking, individuals, abilities

### Introduction

According to Uzbekistan educational standards the formation of critical thinking is one of the most important universal competencies. This shows that educators have fully realized the importance of developing critical thinking for many years of educational practice, but in the question of how to develop critical thinking, in particular when teaching, researchers still have a long way to go.

Digital learning platforms provide opportunities for children to engage with diverse cultures and perspectives, fostering empathy and understanding. Developing critical thinking alongside learning skills enables children to navigate the complexities of multicultural interactions with sensitivity and insight.

The rapid pace of technological advancement necessitates individuals who can adapt, innovate, and think critically. Integrating critical thinking exercises into digital language learning prepares children for the demands of future careers, where cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills are paramount.

Research suggests a strong correlation between critical thinking abilities and academic achievement across various subjects. By incorporating critical thinking challenges into language learning, educators stimulate cognitive development, enhancing children's overall academic performance and analytical skills.

Children today are digital natives, accustomed to interactive and multimedia-rich learning environments.

### **Materials and Discussion**

Psychology Today defines critical thinking as the "capacity to reflect, reason and draw conclusions based on our experiences, knowledge and insights." Our children depend on this skill to communicate, create, build and progress. Critical thinking is a complex process that combines a number of tactics including observing, learning, remembering, questioning, judging, evaluating, innovating, imagining, arguing, synthesizing, deciding and acting. We use critical skills every single day to make good decisions, understand the consequences of our actions and solve problems.

Now that technology has infiltrated our children's lives, critical thinking skills are harder to achieve. However, our children still need to be able to think critically even with all the gadgets that they can rely on. From solving puzzles to deciding when to cross the street to eventually competing in the job market for positions in science, engineering, health, social sciences and other fields will require well-developed critical thinking skills.



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For years, experts have been evaluating the impact of technology on critical thinking skills. According to Patricia Greenfield, UCLA professor of psychology and director of the Children's Digital Media Center, children's critical thinking skills are getting worse while their visual skills are improving. She analyzed more than 50 studies on learning and technology, including research on multitasking and the use of computers, the internet and video games. She found that real-time visual media do not allow for reflection, analysis or imagination.

As for critical thinking, it is a complex thinking process. It includes such stages as obtaining information, analyzing information from a position of logic and a personality oriented approach, forming one's own position and making an independent and reasonable decision in both standard and non-standard situations. Critical thinking can be characterized as a mental process by means of which people seek to acquire knowledge, reconstruct accumulated knowledge and create the new ones.

The technology for the development of critical thinking is based on the theory of meaningful teaching of L. S. Vygotsky, as well as the ideas of D. Dewey, J. Piaget about the creative collaboration of a student and a teacher, about the need to develop students' analytically-creative approach to any material.

Critical thinking encourages learners to critically evaluate cultural representations and discourses present in language materials, media, and communication contexts. By examining power dynamics, stereotypes, and biases embedded in language use, learners can develop a critical awareness of social and cultural issues and advocate for social justice and equity in language learning and communication.

According to Dr. Sarah Johnson, co-author of the study and professor of Educational Technology at Harvard University, "Digital technologies provide a dynamic learning environment that encourages children to explore, experiment, and take risks in their language learning journey. By integrating critical thinking tasks into digital language activities, educators can scaffold students' cognitive development while nurturing their language proficiency."

### Integration of Critical Thinking and Digital Pedagogies:

- Incorporating critical thinking into digital pedagogies involves designing learning activities that require students to engage in higher-order thinking processes while utilizing digital tools and resources.

- Digital technologies can provide platforms for collaborative problem-solving, inquiry-based learning, and authentic real-world tasks that promote critical thinking skills.

- Online discussion forums, virtual debates, and collaborative document editing tools can facilitate critical discourse and peer feedback.

- Digital platforms can also support personalized learning pathways, adaptive assessments, and data analytics to monitor and scaffold students' critical thinking development.

- Gamification and simulation technologies offer immersive learning experiences that require students to analyze complex situations, make decisions, and evaluate outcomes.

- Digital storytelling tools enable students to construct narratives, present arguments, and express perspectives creatively, fostering critical reflection and communication skills.

- Social media platforms and digital information literacy modules can help students evaluate the credibility and reliability of online sources, promoting critical digital literacy skills.

- Online research projects, multimedia presentations, and interactive tutorials encourage students to analyze, synthesize, and apply information from multiple sources to solve real-world problems.

### **Benefits of Integrating Critical Thinking and Digital Pedagogies:**





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- Enhances student engagement and motivation by leveraging interactive and multimedia-rich learning experiences.

- Develops essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, digital literacy, and collaboration.

- Provides opportunities for differentiated instruction and personalized learning experiences tailored to students' diverse needs and learning styles.

- Prepares students for success in an increasingly digital and information-driven society, equipping them with the skills to navigate and contribute meaningfully to the digital world.

- Promotes active learning and student-centered pedagogies, shifting the focus from passive consumption of information to active construction of knowledge and understanding. **Conclusion** 

By grounding the integration of digital technologies into subject learning instruction in these theoretical bases, educators can create enriching learning experiences that not only enhance learning proficiency but also foster children's critical thinking abilities, preparing them to navigate complex linguistic and cultural landscapes with confidence and competence. **References** 

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