

The Importance of Visual Methods in Increasing Primary School Students' Interest in the Mother Tongue

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Abstract: *This article explores the importance of visual methods in fostering primary school students' interest in their mother tongue. It analyzes the theoretical foundations and practical advantages of using visual aids in the teaching process. The article emphasizes that effective use of visual materials—such as pictures, tables, diagrams, didactic games, and modern technologies—plays a crucial role in expanding students' vocabulary, reinforcing grammatical knowledge, and developing oral and written communication skills. It also highlights how visual methods help shape a positive attitude toward the mother tongue, increase students' interest in lessons, and enhance the effectiveness of knowledge acquisition.*

Keywords: *mother tongue, primary school, visual methods, teaching effectiveness, didactic games, speech development, motivation, visualization.*

Introduction

The mother tongue is a fundamental tool for shaping an individual's identity and transmitting national values and culture from one generation to the next. In primary school, one of the key goals of education is to spark students' interest in their native language and develop strong language skills[1-3]. Given the psychological and physiological characteristics of children at this stage—particularly their reliance on visual and imaginative thinking—using visual methods in teaching is especially important. Traditional teaching approaches are not always engaging for young students and can lead to boredom. Therefore, visual tools and methods play a vital role in making lessons lively, interesting, and memorable.

Literature review and methodology

The significance of visual methods in teaching the mother tongue in primary grades has been recognized in numerous studies. D. R. Yunusova emphasized the role of didactic games in boosting language interest among children. N. G. Nurmatova and Z. K. Jo'rayev highlighted the effectiveness of visual materials. L. S. Vygotsky's theory focuses on children's visual-imaginative thinking, while Jean Piaget underscored the importance of interactive experiences in constructing knowledge. M. K. Tursunov also elaborated on the practical aspects of visual materials. These studies confirm the theoretical and practical value of visual methods in native language education.

Advantages of visual methods

Improved memory: Children retain what they see better than what they hear. Visual materials like pictures, charts, diagrams, and videos help students grasp concepts quickly and easily. For example, using illustrative pictures to teach word classes such as “noun,” “verb,” or “adjective” enriches students' imagination and enhances understanding[4].

Increased engagement: Bright and attractive visuals capture students' attention, encourage active participation, and prevent boredom. Methods such as didactic games and visual storytelling foster a positive attitude toward the language.

Vocabulary development: Presenting new words alongside images makes them easier to understand and remember. For instance, colorful images related to topics like "fruits," "vegetables," and "animals" significantly expand students' vocabulary[5-7].

Reinforcing grammar knowledge: Visual charts and diagrams can effectively explain sounds, letters, word formation rules, and sentence components. For example, showing objects that correspond to possessive suffixes when teaching them enhances understanding.

Oral and written speech development: Creating stories based on pictures, conducting Q&A sessions, and writing descriptive essays help develop students' thinking abilities and improve both oral and written communication skills.

Effective use of visual materials

When selecting visual materials, it is important to consider their age-appropriateness, educational relevance, and aesthetic appeal. In modern education, using technological visuals such as interactive whiteboards, projectors, presentations, and video clips enriches the learning process and stimulates interest in digital tools[8].

Teachers should carefully prepare visuals suitable for each lesson and integrate them appropriately into the teaching stages. Visuals should not merely be shown—they should prompt interaction. Asking questions like "What do you see?" or "What is this story about?" encourages independent thinking and discussion.

Results and discussion

Systematic and regular use of visual methods in mother tongue lessons leads to the following positive outcomes:

- Enhanced learning efficiency: Visuals help students grasp new concepts more quickly and deeply. Abstract ideas become concrete and easier to retain.
- Increased activity and motivation: Students engaged through visuals transform from passive listeners into active participants, boosting their interest and enthusiasm.
- Development of speech competencies: Visual materials promote free and coherent expression through storytelling, discussions, and Q&A activities. Writing skills improve through creative writing and descriptive exercises.
- Expanded vocabulary: On average, a primary school student learns 8–10 new words per day, with 4–6 related to mother tongue lessons. Learning new words with visual support helps with quicker comprehension and retention, significantly enriching students' vocabulary[9-11].

Conclusion

The importance of visual methods in enhancing primary students' interest in the mother tongue is widely recognized in modern pedagogy. As shown in this article, visual aids—pictures, tables, didactic games, and modern technologies—activate the learning process through visual perception[12-14].

However, several factors must be considered for effective implementation:

1. Quality and relevance: Visuals must be meaningful and aligned with the lesson objectives. Irrelevant or overly decorative visuals may distract students.

2. Balanced use: Overreliance on visuals can hinder students' ability to think independently. Visuals should complement rather than dominate the lesson.

3. Teacher's skill: The teacher's ability to present and discuss visual materials, ask meaningful questions, and encourage student interaction determines the success of the method.

4. Technology integration: Modern tools such as interactive boards and educational apps should be utilized, but traditional visuals like cards and pictures remain valuable.

In conclusion, thoughtful and systematic use of visual methods not only sustains students' interest in the mother tongue but also fosters their holistic development, independent thinking, and creative expression. This contributes to nurturing literate and articulate individuals in the future.

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