

THE ROLE OF CLASSICAL LITERATURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANALYTICAL THINKING AMONG STUDENTS

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Abstract: This article examines how reading classical literature contributes to the development of analytical thinking among university students. The author explores key aspects such as the enhancement of critical analysis, interpretative abilities, logical reasoning, empathy, and attention to detail. Special focus is placed on how classical works encourage students to analyze characters' motives, seek hidden meanings, and form their own viewpoints. Reading classical literature not only improves academic skills but also develops essential personal qualities necessary for successful adaptation in professional and social environments.

Keywords: Classical literature, analytical thinking, critical analysis, interpretation, logical reasoning, empathy, attention to detail, university students, personal development

1. INTRODUCTION AND RELEVANCE

Reading classical literature is an integral part of the educational process in higher education institutions, playing a key role in the development of students' analytical thinking. This is not just a study of the works of outstanding authors such as Fyodor Dostoevsky, Leo Tolstoy, Jane Austen, William Shakespeare, but a whole process that includes deep reflection and analysis of texts, each of which immerses in the cultural and historical context of different eras. Classics of literature offers students a variety of moral, philosophical, and psychological dilemmas, revealing issues relevant to both past centuries and modern times. Working with such works, students are forced to develop analytical skills, learn to recognize the motives and internal conflicts of the characters, and explore the social and political issues that the authors raise through the prism of literary forms. Thus, classical literature develops the ability for systematic and constructive thinking.

2. METHODS AND THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE

Classical literature requires students to take not only an attentive, but also a deeply critical approach to the text. Works written by great authors often touch upon the most important issues of human morality, ethics, social justice, as well as the inner nature of man, which forces students to consider the text not only from the point of view of the plot, but also at the level of hidden meanings. For example, in Fyodor Dostoevsky's works, characters such as Raskolnikov in Crime and Punishment face deeply philosophical questions about the right to kill in the name of higher goals, about truth and lies, and about the consequences of their actions. The analysis of such works requires students to be able to detect and interpret subtexts, identify moral and ethical dilemmas, which is the basis for the development of their critical thinking. In order to understand the motivation of the characters, students need to take into account the social and historical context of the era in which the events unfold. This requires them to be able to Such processes help to develop the ability to build logical chains, understand cause-and-effect relationships, and the ability to build arguments and draw informed conclusions. These skills are

important not only in the context of studying literature, but also in everyday life, where it is necessary to adequately perceive information, recognize manipulation, and develop an independent and objective opinion.

The development of the ability to interpret.

Reading classical literature helps students develop the ability to interpret and analyze the text in depth. Many works by great authors such as Franz Kafka, Hermann Hesse, and James Joyce are filled with allegories, metaphors, and symbols that do not always have a direct and unambiguous meaning. These works require students not only the ability to understand the main plot, but also the ability to search for hidden meanings, interpret symbolism, and identify philosophical and psychological motives embedded in the text. For example, in Kafka's "The Trial," the characters encounter an absurd and incomprehensible bureaucratic system that turns their lives into an endless cycle of meaningless actions. To understand such works, students need to be able to work with the ambiguity and ambiguity of the text, find different interpretations of what is happening and develop their own interpretations.

The development of interpretive skills also contributes to the development of abstract and conceptual thinking, which is an integral part of the analytical approach. When students learn to interpret texts, they learn to perceive a work not as a closed system, but as a dynamic process open to various approaches and interpretations. This allows them to look for new solutions in a wide variety of areas of life, as well as develop the ability to think creatively and outside the box. In addition, the ability to interpret classical literature helps students to take into account the diversity of multiple points of view, which is an important aspect of analytical thinking. In real life, it is often necessary to make decisions based on different factors, take into account different perspectives and draw conclusions based on a variety of data. Reading and interpreting classical works teaches you to take into account all these nuances, which contributes to the development of skills that are necessary both in the educational and professional fields.

Improvement of logical reasoning. Classical literature promotes the development of logical reasoning among students, as many works require a careful analysis of the actions of characters, their motivations and the consequences of these actions. The logic behind the actions of the characters, as a rule, reflects not only their inner beliefs, but also the social, philosophical and moral principles that influence their behavior. For example, in Shakespeare's tragedies, characters such as Hamlet, Ophelia, or Macbeth act within their own personal moral codes, but these actions often lead to tragic consequences. Analyzing such works, students learn to recognize the logic that underlies the choice of characters, and realize how each step in their actions leads to a certain result. This allows you to develop a critical approach to any action and evaluate its consequences from different perspectives.

Analyzing, for example, Raskolnikov's motives in Crime and Punishment, students can trace the internal logical chains that move the character, his internal struggle between theoretical law and morality, and also see how these ideas lead to tragic results. Using this approach, students are taught to build logical connections between events, which contributes to the development of their analytical thinking. They begin to consider cause and effect, realizing how small details can affect the big picture. In addition, the study of logical structures in classical literature helps students to build more structured and consistent arguments in their own reasoning. The ability to build causal relationships and draw informed conclusions is an essential element of analytical thinking, as it contributes to the formation of an objective view of the situation and increases the ability to make informed decisions.

Thus, the logic of the characters of classical literature becomes a kind of training ground for the formation of logical reasoning skills, which is important both in academic life and in real practice. This helps students not only understand difficult situations, but also develop the ability to see patterns and draw conclusions based on facts and logic, rather than emotions or preconceived opinions.

Developing empathy and emotional intelligence

One of the most important aspects of analytical thinking is the ability for empathy and emotional perception. Classical literature provides a unique opportunity for students to experience and understand the emotions and inner experiences of various characters, which is an integral part of the process of developing emotional intelligence. After reading Dostoevsky's works, such as *Crime and Punishment*, students not only become familiar with philosophical and moral dilemmas, but also begin to realize how the inner feelings, doubts and remorse of the characters influence their decisions. For example, by analyzing Rodion Raskolnikov's experiences, students learn to distinguish between the motivation of his actions, experience his inner torments, and begin to understand how emotional and moral collisions can be driving forces for decision-making.

This approach helps students not only to understand literature more deeply, but also to develop the ability to empathize in real life. Empathy is the ability to put yourself in another person's shoes and try to understand their feelings and motives. This skill is especially important in today's world, where successful communication and collaboration require the ability to understand other people's emotions and respond appropriately to them. In addition, a deep analysis of the emotional states of the characters helps students to become more aware of their own emotions, their influence on behavior and decision-making. This develops emotional intelligence, which is an important component of personal growth and professional success. Emotional intelligence helps students to be more sensitive to the needs and experiences of others, as well as to correctly assess situations in which emotions can play a key role.

Thus, reading classical literature promotes the development of empathy, which in turn helps to form deeper and more multifaceted analytical abilities. Students learn to perceive the world through the prism of other people, which promotes a more mature and balanced approach to problem solving and interaction with others.

2. METHODS AND THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE

Classical literature requires students to be attentive and able to concentrate on details, which plays a key role in the development of analytical thinking. The works of authors such as Victor Hugo or Leo Tolstoy are often full of detailed descriptions that reveal not only the appearance of the characters, but also their inner state, the social context and the atmosphere in which events unfold. For example, in *War and Peace*, Tolstoy describes in detail not only the most important historical events, but also the subtle psychological experiences of the characters, their relationships with each other and with the outside world. To understand the full range of these meanings, students need to be attentive to each element of the text, to see not only the obvious facts, but also the subtext, symbolism and hidden motivations.

This attention to detail allows students to develop the ability to identify key points and understand their significance in the context of the entire work. It also helps students avoid jumping to conclusions, as they learn to focus on accurate data and avoid missing important

elements that may be unnoticeable at first glance. Concentration and mindfulness skills, developed through the analysis of classical literature, are necessary not only in studies, but also in everyday life. The ability to notice important but not always obvious details allows students to be more accurate in their conclusions and more sensitive to changes in the world around them.

In addition, working with classical literature helps students develop the ability to hold their attention for a long time and focus on complex texts. This trains their ability to analyze and understand deep concepts, which is especially important in educational and professional activities. Thus, concentration and attention to detail, developed through reading classical works, become important skills that contribute to the overall development of analytical thinking.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

First of all, critical thinking skills, which are developed in the process of analyzing classical literature, help students to approach professional tasks more consciously. In most professions, especially those that require managing people or working with large amounts of information, it is important to be able to assess situations from different angles, identify hidden trends and draw informed conclusions. For example, managers, lawyers, psychologists, or social workers often face the need to evaluate complex and ambiguous situations where it is important to take into account human emotions, motivation, and social contexts. Reading works such as Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* or Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* helps students learn to recognize these aspects, which improves their ability to make decisions in real life.

In addition, classical literature helps to develop argumentation and debate skills. By analyzing works with several levels of meaning, students learn to build logical and convincing arguments, which is useful not only in the academic field, but also in personal conversations, as well as when defending their point of view in professional activities. For example, when discussing the work of characters in Shakespeare's tragedies or philosophical issues in Camus' novels, students are taught to formulate clear and well-founded positions, which becomes an important skill in various fields - from scientific work to public speaking and negotiations.

Thus, classical literature becomes a powerful tool that helps students develop not only analytical and logical abilities, but also emotional and social skills that are indispensable in real life. It helps students not only assimilate knowledge, but also teaches them to adapt to a rapidly changing world where it is important to take into account many aspects of human behavior, social connections and psychology.

4. CONCLUSION

Reading classical literature has a significant impact on the development of students' analytical thinking in universities. Studying the works of great authors such as Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Shakespeare and others contributes not only to the accumulation of knowledge about culture, history and philosophy, but also to the development of essential skills of critical analysis, logical reasoning, interpretation and empathy. Each of these aspects plays a key role in shaping modern analytical thinking, which is essential for successful functioning in academic and professional fields.

Through an in-depth analysis of literary works, students are taught not only to view information from different angles, but also to see hidden semantic layers, symbolism and subtext. These skills, in turn, help them build logical chains, argue their positions, and make more informed and

informed decisions in real life. Applying this knowledge in practice improves communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, as well as helps develop emotional intelligence, which is essential for personal growth.

Thus, classical literature is an integral part of the educational process, which not only expands the horizons of students, but also contributes to their development as thinkers and personalities capable of deep analysis, empathy and informed decision-making. In today's world, where information overload and complex moral and social issues are becoming a daily reality, skills developed through studying the classics play an important role in preparing students for successful careers and mature lives.

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