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ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO SHOW THEIR CREATIVITY IN THE ENGLISH TEACHING PROCESS

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<i>Article history</i> Received:2025-03-05 Received in revised form:2025-03-25 Accepted:2025-04-30 Available online:2025-12-29 Keywords: language learning, creativity, ways for encouraging students.	<i>English is one of the most widely used languages in the world and it has a great importance in the fields of education and communication. For this reason, it is necessary to use various useful tools in teaching the language. The process of learning English should not be limited to grammar and vocabulary. Supporting students' ability to think creatively, develop original ideas and use language skills creatively helps make the language learning process much more effective and enjoyable. There are some effective ways to encourage creativity in students during the English teaching process like project-based learning, creating visual and multimedia-based activities, hosting creative competitions, storytelling and many others. Various methods such as creative writing, role playing, group work and art activities assist students use the language more effectively and think differently. In this process, it enables them to pay more attention to language learning activities and use the target language they have learned in a more original way.</i>

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İNGİLİS DİLİNİN TƏDRİSİ PROSESİNDƏ TƏLƏBƏLƏRİN KREATİVLİKLƏRİNİN ÜZƏ ÇIXARILMASI YOLLARI

XÜLASƏ

İngilis dili dünyada ən geniş istifadə olunan dillərdən biridir və təhsil və ünsiyyət sahələrində böyük əhəmiyyətə malikdir. Buna görə də, dili öyrənərkən müxtəlif faydalı vasitələrdən istifadə etmək vacibdir. İngilis dili öyrənmə prosesi yalnız qrammatika və lüğətlə məhdudlaşmamalıdır. Tələbələrin kreativ düşünmə qabiliyyətini dəstəkləmək, orijinal fikirlər inkişaf etdirmək və dil bacarıqlarını yaradıcı şəkildə istifadə etmək, dil öyrənmə prosesini çox daha effektiv və əyləncəli edir. İngilis dili tədrisi zamanı tələbələrin kreativliyini təşviq etmək üçün layihə əsaslı öyrənmə, vizual və multimedia əsaslı fəaliyyətlər yaratmaq, yaradıcı yarışmalar təşkil etmək, hekayə anlatımı və digər bir çox effektiv üsul mövcuddur. Yaradıcı yazı, rol oyunu, qrup işi və sənət fəaliyyətləri kimi müxtəlif metodlar, tələbələrin dili daha effektiv istifadə etməsinə və fərqli düşünmələrinə kömək edir. Bu proses, onlara dil öyrənmə fəaliyyətlərinə daha çox diqqət yetirməyə və öyrəndikləri hədəf dili daha orijinal bir şəkildə istifadə etməyə imkan yaradır.

Açar sözlər: dil öyrənilməsi, kreativlik, tələbələri təşviq etmək yolları.

INTRODUCTION

Enabling students to use their creativity in the English classes is an important approach that makes the language learning process more operative and meaningful. Creativity is a notion that is not only limited to learning grammar or vocabulary, it also improves students' thinking skills, problem-solving abilities and the competence to express themselves freely. Creativity inspires students to actively use their language skills. For instance, they practice the language by writing their own stories, acting out roles, or analyzing the lyrics of the songs. Creativity also allows students to think in an extraordinary way and seek different solutions. It also increases students' interest and motivation in the lesson. Especially fun and free-thinking activities ensure student participation in the lesson and make learning more pleasurable. Generating their own ideas lets students be more involved in the learning process and to direct their own process increasing their self-confidence. Students learn to use English more confidently by telling stories, playing games or sharing ideas in group works. Creating an opportunity for them to show their abilities helps students to express their personal views and feelings in the language. Producing original content inspires them to use English in their own style.

The first way to encourage students to show their creativity is project- based learning. Project-based learning is a useful approach that allows students to improve their knowledge and capacity by actively taking part in the process of solving real-world problems. This method helps them to develop their creative thinking and problem-solving skills. It offers students a chance to do projects, individually or in groups, around a certain theme or topic. This approach in English lessons assists students discover how they can use the language not only theoretically but also related to real life. They can express themselves originally while working on their projects, discover new ideas and reveal their potential by exploring different aspects of the language. In the working process, students conduct research, interviews, prepare presentations and use English in such practical environments. Group projects let students work together to exchange ideas, reach various perspectives and use their language skills collectively. They encounter several problems while working on their projects and need to find creative solutions to overcome them. This increases their motivation because everything is in their hands and they feel a personal responsibility for learning. Evaluations at the final part of the projects allow the students to measure their creative thinking, skills in working collaboratively, as well as their language skills.

At our university, we try to teach English related to the students' majors, and we applied this project in several groups related to technical English. The students were tasked with creating a vlog related to their field of study and using the words they learned during the lesson in their work. The students worked on this project with great interest, and as a result, we obtained very interesting outcomes. One group of students from the architecture department wrote a film script related to their major and published it in the form of a book. They also created an amateur film version of the book. The other groups presented very creative videos related to their fields of study. During this process, they both improved their ability to work in groups and enhanced their language use during the research they conducted, and since they were allowed to engage in areas of their own interest, they carried out all of this with great enjoyment. [6]

The next way is creating visual and multimedia-based activities. This approach both makes language learning more interesting and allows students to better develop their language skills. When information is presented to students through visual and multimedia, it creates a more

lasting impact on their memory. Visual and auditory stimuli make the language learning process more understandable. Videos, images, and other multimedia materials allow students to express their ideas in more diverse ways. For example, they can make a video to present a topic, or write a text using photos or infographics. This also stimulates their creativity. Through these kinds of activities they participate in less monotonous and more fun classes, which increases their interest in learning. Every student has a different learning style. Some students prefer learning visually, while others prefer learning through listening. It is possible to tailor lessons to suit both types of students with multimedia tools. Videos, images, podcasts, and other multimedia content help students use English in real-life situations, making the language more practical and relevant. Multimedia-based assignments also develop students' presentation skills. Students gain the ability to better express their ideas and convince their audience.

We applied this method in a very interesting way in our lesson and encountered quite extraordinary results. The students were assigned to create a remake project. They were asked to take a photo of their choice, personalize it, and bring it to life again. While some students used celebrities' pictures from the internet, others recreated their parents' photos in the youth. They had to describe the collage they created in English beautifully. This provided them with a fantastic opportunity for practice in describing images. As a result, even students with very weak speaking skills and those who were hesitant to speak in class described the picture they created in English very well with great enthusiasm.

It is very important to hold creative competitions in English classes to help students show their creativity. Creative competitions allow students to freely express their skills and encourage them to approach the lesson with more interest. They work harder to participate in the competition because winning a prize or success motivates them. Competitions encourage students to think outside the box and find innovative approaches to traditional teaching methods. For example, students solve creative tasks such as writing a story, composing a poem, or explaining a topic in unusual ways. Competitions make the learning environment more interactive and fun. Instead of just passively receiving information, students actively participate by applying their knowledge. This allows them to be more involved in the learning process. Participating in competitions allows students to showcase their abilities, which increases their self-confidence. Students who achieve successful results become more motivated and want to work harder in the future. Creative competitions not only develop language skills, but also strengthen other skills of students. This ensures their overall development and prepares them to be successful in various areas of life. Competitions give students the opportunity to work as a team and support each other. Teamwork helps students develop important social skills by connecting, sharing ideas, and working toward a common goal. Every student has a different learning style. Competitions cater to different learning styles such as visual, auditory, kinesthetic by presenting different tasks. This allows each student to best demonstrate their skills. [1]

When applying this method in our lesson, the students were assigned to choose a scene from any Azerbaijani or Turkish movie, translate that scene into English, and reenact it. The students worked in groups to reenact scenes from various interesting films. Each student performed their role with great enthusiasm, and we watched very interesting scenes. At the end of all the performances, we selected the most liked one. [7]

Storytelling is another very useful way to bring out creativity in English lessons. Stories allow students to imagine different situations and worlds. This also develops their thinking skills. For

example, based on a story, students can suggest different endings or predict how events will develop. Storytelling improves all aspects of language – grammar, vocabulary, word combinations, and sentence structure. While creating stories, students learn new vocabulary and gain experience using language more freely. Storytelling teaches students to think creatively. They have to make decisions about the story's theme, characters, and plot, which develops their problem-solving skills. Interesting and entertaining stories help make the lesson more engaging. Storytelling helps students connect more with the lesson, breaking up the monotony. Stories, especially those about human characters and their feelings, help students develop a sense of empathy. They learn to understand the thoughts and emotions of others. Storytelling helps students strengthen their written and oral expression skills. They gain more opportunities to create their own ideas and communicate them to others. [2]

Songs help students improve their pronunciation and listening skills. The rhythmic structure and repetition of the lyrics make it easier for students to remember new words. At the same time, they provide practical examples of grammar and word combinations. Songs allow students to interpret the content and delve deeper into the meaning. When analyzing the lyrics of a song, students begin to think more creatively by analyzing different themes, emotions, and concepts. For example, changing the meaning of a song or creating their own versions gives students a creative approach. Songs, especially those with emotional content, touch students' feelings and encourage them to think more deeply. This develops their empathy and emotional analysis skills in the language learning process. Students form a stronger bond by relating the lyrics to their personal experiences. Songs are often associated with groups or different cultures. Students gain a broader social understanding as they learn songs from different cultures. At the same time, singing in groups in class allows students to build collaboration and social connections. Songs often feature everyday language and more informal expressions. This helps students learn more natural and common forms of English. Songs also provide information about different languages and accents.

Using hypothetical questions in English lessons is very important to bring out students' creativity. These questions develop students' thinking and language skills, while also stimulating their creativity. Hypothetical questions allow students to think about impossible or unusual situations. For example, the questions "If you had superpowers, what powers would you choose?", "If you had a million dollars, what would you do?" allow students to use their imagination and come up with different ideas. This strengthens their creative thinking skills. Hypothetical situations allow students to construct new and interesting sentences, talk about abstract topics, and express their own ideas. As they answer such questions, they gain experience in grammar and sentence structure, as well as learning different forms of language use. Students try to understand the opinions and perspectives of others when discussing hypothetical situations. For example, questions like "If you were a principal, what decisions would you make?" put the student in the shoes of others and encourage them to understand their way of thinking. This also helps develop empathy and social skills. Some hypothetical questions encourage students to think about broad, global issues. For example, questions like "If only one language could be spoken in the entire world, which one would you choose and why?" encourage students to think about global issues.

Allowing students to bring their personal interests, hobbies, and experiences to the English lesson is crucial to unlocking their creativity. This approach makes the learning process more

personal and engaging for students, and also has several positive outcomes. It is easier for students to show interest in the lesson based on their personal experiences and interests. For example, if a student is interested in music or sports, organizing lesson activities related to these topics increases their interest in the lesson and encourages them to participate more actively. Using personal experiences allows students to learn in concrete situations. As they explain their life experiences in English, it improves their expression and speaking skills. This approach also helps them remember the information they have learned better. Students feel more comfortable talking about their interests and experiences. This also increases their self-confidence. For example, when a student talks about their hobbies or travels, the use of language comes more naturally to them and they express themselves more freely. This makes the language learning process less stressful and more natural. Talking about personal interests and hobbies gives students the opportunity to come up with new and creative ideas. For example, a question like "If you were the head of your own film industry, what genres of films would you make?" can inspire a student's creativity and spark different ideas. Every student has a different learning style. Some students learn best with visual materials, while others learn better by listening. Activities based on personal interests and hobbies allow each student to choose course materials and topics that suit their style, making the learning process more effective. [3]

When students find a suitable environment to share their ideas, it helps them to believe more in their own thoughts and opinions. They feel that their ideas are valued, and this increases their commitment to using the language. Knowing that they can improve their ideas by receiving feedback makes them more active. Sharing ideas teaches students to think from different perspectives. For example, when one student presents their idea, other students can offer different perspectives. These discussions develop students' creative thinking skills and encourage them to generate new ideas. Receiving feedback helps students refine their ideas and try new approaches. Feedback provides opportunities for students to correct their mistakes and improve by highlighting areas of accuracy and improvement. At the same time, positive feedback increases students' motivation and confidence. Students begin to express themselves more freely in English when sharing their ideas. This improves both their speaking and writing skills. When feedback is given, students receive specific suggestions for improving both their grammatical errors and their style of expression, which speeds up the learning process. Sharing ideas teaches students to think critically and justify their opinions. Receiving feedback helps them develop the skills to analyze their ideas and present their positions more forcefully. This not only enhances the language learning process, but also strengthens their overall thinking skills.

Games break up the monotony of lessons and make learning more fun for students. Fun activities increase students' interest in the lesson and engage them in the lesson. This makes the learning process easier and more natural. Games encourage students to think differently and find solutions. For example, word and picture games like "Scrabble" or "Pictionary" encourage students to find new words, build different expressions, and express their creativity. Games encourage them to think more freely and creatively than traditional lessons. Games develop both speaking and writing skills. For example, games like "Taboo" teach students to use synonyms and antonyms, while "Charades" helps them develop their descriptive and expository skills. This also gives them practice using language more freely. Many games are played in groups, which teaches students to cooperate and make decisions together. Games encourage students to listen to others' ideas, work together as a team to achieve goals, and develop social skills. Games allow

students to test their abilities and see their successes. As they succeed at each stage of the game, students feel more confident, which makes them more active and courageous in lessons overall.

According to the results of a survey conducted with teachers on this topic, the vast majority of teachers consider creativity to be very important in English lessons. When asked which of the methods mentioned in the survey they apply in their lessons, the most frequently used ones were creating opportunities for students to give feedback on each other's work, using songs, visual and multimedia tools, and project-based learning, all of which received positive feedback. Most teachers reported that the activity students are most eager to engage in to show their creativity is participating in group work. In response to the question of which factors motivate students in class, teachers mentioned allowing them to choose topics they are interested in. The next question was about how teachers assess students' creativity in class. The majority of teachers answered that they assess creativity primarily through project-based evaluation and by taking on a role as an observer during group work and discussions. Finally, when asked about the challenges they face in this regard, most teachers said that working with groups that have different levels of creativity was the main difficulty. [5]

In the survey conducted with students, they were asked questions about this topic. When asked about the factors that encourage them to be creative in their English lessons, most students mentioned receiving positive feedback from the teacher and being given the freedom to express their ideas. When asked which activities help them in class, they chose writing creative compositions. When asked about the factors that prevent them from showing their creativity, the most common answer was the fear of making mistakes. [4]

There are various ways to bring out students' creativity in English lessons. These ways allow students to freely express their individual thoughts and ideas while developing their language skills. Various learning methods and creative activities make the students' educational process more interesting and productive. Teachers encouraging creativity and creating wide opportunities for students will help them to have more creative and independent thinking abilities in the future.

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