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TEACHING CULTURAL AWARENESS THROUGH LITERARY TEXTS: A CASE STUDY APPROACH

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Abstract: This article explores the role of literary texts in developing cultural awareness among language learners. Literature is not only a source of language learning but also a powerful medium for understanding traditions, beliefs, lifestyles, and values of different societies. The study focuses on a case study approach to demonstrate how literary works improve students' intercultural competence, critical thinking, and communication skills. Through analyzing selected literary texts, students become more open-minded and respectful toward cultural diversity. The article also discusses practical classroom strategies for integrating literature into language education.

Keywords:cultural awareness, literary texts, intercultural competence, literature teaching, language learning, case study

Introduction

In the modern world, communication between people from different cultural backgrounds has become increasingly common. Therefore, teaching cultural awareness has become an essential part of language education. Language and culture are deeply connected because language reflects traditions, values, beliefs, and social behaviors of a society. Literary texts provide authentic cultural information and help students understand different perspectives.

The Relationship Between Literature and Culture

Literature and culture cannot be separated from one another. Every literary work reflects the historical background, traditions, social norms, and worldview of a particular society. When students read literary texts, they are exposed not only to language structures but also to cultural meanings.

Importance of Cultural Awareness in Education

Cultural awareness is the ability to understand, respect, and appreciate cultural differences. In education, it helps students become tolerant, respectful, and effective communicators. Without cultural awareness, misunderstandings and stereotypes may appear during communication

Case Study Approach in Teaching Literature

A case study approach focuses on analyzing specific examples or classroom experiences to understand educational practices more deeply. In this study, a group of English language learners was introduced to literary texts representing different cultures.

Classroom Strategies

Teachers can use discussion activities, role-playing, comparative analysis, reflective writing, and multimedia support to improve students' cultural understanding through literary texts.

Challenges

Despite its advantages, teaching culture through literature also presents certain difficulties. Some literary texts may contain complex vocabulary, unfamiliar traditions, or historical references that students find difficult to understand.

Conclusion

Literary texts play a significant role in developing cultural awareness among language learners. They provide authentic insights into different societies and encourage students to respect cultural diversity. Literature-based teaching methods improve intercultural competence, critical thinking, and communication abilities.

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