

*K. Koroliuk,
Student,
O. Zymovets,
Senior Lecturer,
Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University*

FORMATION OF JUNIOR SCHOOLCHILDREN'S CRITICAL THINKING IN SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

The relevance of the research topic lies in the necessity of developing critical thinking as one of the key competencies of a modern student. In a world where the volume of information is constantly growing, the ability to analyze, evaluate, and use information becomes an essential element of personal development. The formation of critical thinking in junior schoolchildren requires the use of interactive teaching methods, an individual approach, and modern educational technologies.

Critical thinking encompasses components such as analytical perception, the ability to reflect, creativity, and the formation of reasoned conclusions. It enables children to ask questions, make informed judgments, and solve problems. [2, p. 9].

The formation of critical thinking in junior schoolchildren involves:

- **Developing the ability to analyze information.** Teachers can use methods such as comparison, classification, and grouping. For example, they can ask children to find similarities and differences between two fairy-tale characters.

- **Teaching the evaluation of facts and judgments.** Children should be asked open-ended questions that encourage them to search for answers independently. For example, "Why did this character make that choice?"

- **Forming argumentation skills.** It is important to teach children to explain their thoughts using simple logical connections. Group discussions or debates can be organized for this purpose.

The problem of forming critical thinking has been studied by such well-known philosophers, psychologists, and educators as:

1. **Jean Piaget.** The Swiss psychologist viewed the development of cognitive processes in children as the foundation for critical thinking. He emphasized that a child's thinking develops through stages, with each subsequent stage requiring more complex tasks and analysis. [1, p. 45].

2. **John Dewey.** The American educator emphasized the importance of critical thinking in the learning process. He developed the concept of "reflective thinking," which encourages children to draw conclusions based on the facts they acquire.

3. **Vasyl Sukhomlynskyi.** The Ukrainian educator stressed that critical thinking develops through creative tasks that encourage children to think and analyze independently. He believed that reading and discussing literary texts are effective tools for fostering this skill. [3, p. 218].

Methods that contribute to the development of critical thinking:

- **Game-based methods.** Using role-playing games to simulate problem situations. For example, children can play a "trial" to resolve a conflict between fairy-tale characters.

- **Edward de Bono's "Six Thinking Hats" Technique.** This approach helps children analyze a problem from different perspectives.

- **Group work.** Collaborative task discussions teach students to listen to other opinions and form their own positions.

Thus, the formation of critical thinking in junior schoolchildren is a crucial task of modern education. It contributes not only to the intellectual but also to the social development of children, equipping them with the ability to navigate the complex information space.

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