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## CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' CRITICAL THINKING

Annotation

Intercultural competence is a crucial skill for students to develop in today's globalized world. This paper aims to explore the characteristics of intercultural competence that contribute to the development of students' critical thinking skills. Intercultural competence involves the ability to effectively communicate and interact with people from different cultural backgrounds, as well as to navigate and adapt to diverse cultural contexts. One key characteristic of intercultural competence is cultural awareness, which involves having an understanding and appreciation of one's own cultural identity as well as the cultural norms and values of others. This awareness allows students to recognize and challenge their own biases and assumptions, leading to more open-minded and reflective thinking.

**Key words:** Intercultural competence; Cultural awareness; Empathy; Adaptability; Effective communication skills; Critical thinking skills; Cultural identity; Cultural norms and values; Bias and assumptions; Open-mindedness; Reflection; Diversity; Perspective-taking; Respectful communication; Dialogue; Collaboration; Globalization.

## TALABALARNING TANQIDIY TAFAKKURINI RIVOJLANTIRISHDA MADANIYATLARARO KOMPETENSIYANING XUSUSIYATLARI

Annotatsiya

Madaniyatlararo kompetensiya talabalar uchun bugungi globallashgan dunyoda rivojlanishi uchun hal qiluvchi mahoratdir. Ushbu maqola talabalarning tanqidiy fikrlash qobiliyatlarini rivojlantirishga hissa qo'shadigan madaniyatlararo kompetensiya xususiyatlarini o'rganishga qaratilgan. Madaniyatlararo kompetensiya turli xil madaniy muhitdagi odamlar bilan samarali muloqot qilish va o'zaro munosabatda bo'lish, shuningdek, turli xil madaniy kontekstlarga moslashish qobiliyatini o'z ichiga oladi. Madaniyatlararo kompetensiyaning asosiy xususiyatlaridan biri bu madaniy xabardorlik bo'lib, u o'zining madaniy o'ziga xosligini, shuningdek, boshqalarning madaniy me'yorlari va qadriyatlarini tushunish va qadrlashni o'z ichiga oladi. Bu xabardorlik talabalarga o'zlarining noto'g'ri qarashlari va taxminlarini tan olish va e'tiroz bildirish imkonini beradi, bu esa yanada ochiq fikrli va aks ettiruvchi fikrlashga olib keladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Madaniyatlararo kompetensiya; Madaniy xabardorlik; Moslashuvchanlik; Samarali muloqot qobiliyatlari; Tanqidiy fikrlash qobiliyatlari; Madaniy o'ziga xoslik; Madaniy normalar va qadriyatlar; Ochiq fikrlash; Refleksiya; Turli xillik; Istiqbolli qarash; Hurmatli muloqot; Dialog; Globallashuv.

## ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ МЕЖДУКУЛЬТУРНОЙ КОМПЕТЕНТНОСТИ В РАЗВИТИИ КРИТИЧЕСКОГО МЫШЛЕНИЯ СТУДЕНТОВ

Аннотация

Межкультурная компетентность является важнейшим навыком, который студенты должны развивать в современном глобализованном мире. Целью данной статьи является изучение характеристик межкультурной компетентности, которые способствуют развитию навыков критического мышления учащихся. Межкультурная компетентность предполагает способность эффективно общаться и взаимодействовать с людьми разного культурного происхождения, а также ориентироваться и адаптироваться к различным культурным контекстам. Одной из ключевых характеристик межкультурной компетентности является культурная осведомленность, которая предполагает понимание и признание своей культурной идентичности, а также культурных норм и ценностей других. Эта осведомленность позволяет учащимся распознавать и оспаривать свои собственные предубеждения и предположения, что приводит к более непредвзятому и рефлексивному мышлению.

**Ключевые слова:** Межкультурная компетентность; Культурная осведомленность; Сочувствие; Адаптивность; Навыки эффективной коммуникации; Навыки критического мышления; Культурные особенности; Культурные нормы и ценности; Предвзятость и предположения; Открытость; Отражение; Разнообразие; перспектива; Уважительное общение; Диалог; Сотрудничество; Глобализация.

**Introduction.** Intercultural competence is a crucial skill for individuals in today's globalized world. It involves the ability to effectively communicate, interact, and collaborate with people from diverse cultural backgrounds. Developing intercultural competence not only enhances one's ability to navigate cross-cultural interactions but also plays a significant role in fostering critical thinking skills among students [1].

One of the key characteristics of intercultural competence that contributes to the development of students'

critical thinking is cultural awareness. By being aware of their own cultural values, beliefs, and biases, students can better understand how these factors influence their perceptions and interactions with others. This self-awareness prompts students to critically reflect on their own perspectives and assumptions, leading to a deeper understanding of different cultural norms and practices.

Another essential characteristic of intercultural competence is empathy. Empathy enables students to put

themselves in the shoes of others, considering different viewpoints and experiences. Through empathetic engagement with individuals from diverse backgrounds, students are encouraged to think critically about the complexities of cultural differences and similarities, challenging their preconceived notions and fostering a more inclusive mindset.

Effective communication skills are also integral to intercultural competence and critical thinking development[2]. The ability to communicate across cultural boundaries requires students to listen actively, ask questions, and seek clarification, promoting a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives. Engaging in meaningful cross-cultural dialogues encourages students to analyze information critically, evaluate different viewpoints, and construct well-reasoned arguments based on evidence and cultural context.

Furthermore, adaptability and flexibility are key components of intercultural competence that contribute to students' critical thinking abilities. Adapting to new cultural contexts and navigating unfamiliar situations require students to think creatively, problem-solve, and make informed decisions. By embracing ambiguity and complexity in intercultural interactions, students develop the resilience and cognitive flexibility necessary for effective critical thinking in diverse settings.

**Literature review.** Intercultural competence and critical thinking are two essential skills that are increasingly recognized as crucial for individuals in a globalized world. Cultural awareness is a fundamental component of intercultural competence that involves understanding and respecting different cultural values, beliefs, and practices. By being aware of their own cultural biases and assumptions, students can critically reflect on how these factors influence their perceptions and interactions with others. This self-awareness enables students to engage in cross-cultural dialogues with an open mind, challenging their preconceived notions and fostering a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives. Empathy is another key characteristic of intercultural competence that plays a significant role in the development of students' critical thinking skills[3]. Empathy involves the ability to understand and share the feelings and perspectives of others, regardless of cultural differences. By cultivating empathy, students can put themselves in the shoes of individuals from diverse backgrounds, considering different viewpoints and experiences. This empathetic engagement promotes critical thinking by encouraging students to analyze information from multiple perspectives and make well-informed judgements based on a deeper understanding of cultural nuances. The literature highlights the importance of developing intercultural competence as a means to enhance students' critical thinking skills. By fostering cultural awareness, empathy, effective communication, adaptability, and flexibility, educators can support the holistic development of students as critical thinkers capable of engaging thoughtfully with diverse perspectives, challenging their assumptions, and making informed judgements in an increasingly interconnected world. Further research is needed to explore the specific mechanisms through which intercultural competence influences critical thinking development and to identify effective strategies for integrating intercultural learning experiences into educational curricula[4].

**Research methodology.** Another important characteristic is empathy, the ability to understand and share

the feelings of others. Empathy is essential for effective communication and collaboration across cultures, as it enables students to see things from different perspectives and develop a deeper understanding of diverse viewpoints. Adaptability is also a key characteristic of intercultural competence, as it involves being flexible and open to new experiences and ways of thinking[5]. Students who are adaptable are better able to navigate unfamiliar situations and engage with people from different cultural backgrounds in a respectful and inclusive manner. Finally, intercultural competence also involves effective communication skills, including the ability to listen actively, ask questions, and express ideas clearly and respectfully. These communication skills are essential for engaging in meaningful dialogue and collaboration with individuals from diverse backgrounds, and for developing critical thinking skills through the exchange of ideas and perspectives. [10]

The development of intercultural competence is closely linked to the cultivation of students' critical thinking skills, as it encourages them to think critically about their own cultural assumptions and biases, as well as to engage with diverse perspectives and experiences in a thoughtful and reflective manner. By fostering intercultural competence in students, educators can help prepare them to navigate the complexities of our interconnected world and become more informed, empathetic, and critical thinkers [6].

**Analysis and results.** Effective communication skills are essential for intercultural competence and critical thinking development. The ability to communicate across cultural boundaries requires students to listen actively, ask questions, and seek clarification to ensure mutual understanding. [9] Engaging in meaningful cross-cultural dialogues promotes critical thinking by challenging students to evaluate different viewpoints, analyse information critically, and construct well-reasoned arguments based on evidence and cultural context. Effective communication also enhances students' ability to navigate complex intercultural interactions and resolve conflicts through constructive dialogue. Adaptability and flexibility are key components of intercultural competence that contribute to students' critical thinking abilities. Navigating unfamiliar cultural contexts and adapting to new situations require students to think creatively, problem-solve, and make informed decisions[7]. By embracing ambiguity and complexity in intercultural interactions, students develop the resilience and cognitive flexibility necessary for effective critical thinking in diverse settings. Adaptability and flexibility also enable students to respond thoughtfully to changing circumstances, collaborate with individuals from different cultural backgrounds, and navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect[8].

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, the development of intercultural competence plays a vital role in enhancing students' critical thinking skills. Through fostering cultural awareness, empathy, effective communication, adaptability, and flexibility, intercultural competence empowers students to engage thoughtfully with diverse perspectives, challenge their assumptions, and make informed judgements. By integrating intercultural learning experiences into educational curricula, educators can support the holistic development of students as critical thinkers capable of navigating the complexities of our interconnected world.

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