



TRADITIONAL AND INNOVATIVE METHODS OF USING FOLKLORE IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

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Abstract

This article analyzes the pedagogical opportunities of using folklore in primary education. It highlights the advantages of traditional teaching methods and modern innovative technologies, including graphic organizers, case studies, and interdisciplinary integration approaches in teaching folklore. Furthermore, the study reveals the role of these methods in developing students' critical thinking, creativity, and respect for national values.

Keywords: Primary education, folklore, innovative methods, cluster, case study, interdisciplinary integration, axiology, human capital.

Introduction

Today, one of the main objectives of the education system is not only to provide students with solid knowledge but also to educate them as independent thinkers, creative individuals, and respectful supporters of national and universal values. In this regard, folklore serves as one of the most important tools for the spiritual and moral development of the younger generation.

From the perspective of pedagogical axiology, folklore embodies the centuries-old experience, wisdom, and moral principles of the people. Effective use of this rich cultural heritage in primary education contributes to the formation of a strong worldview and positive personal qualities among students.

Literature review and methods

For many years, traditional approaches have played a fundamental role in teaching folklore within educational practice. These methods primarily focus on the



transmission and reproduction of knowledge, enabling students to understand and internalize the content of folk texts in a structured manner. One of the most commonly used methods is retelling the text, in which students reproduce the content of a fairy tale, legend, or folk narrative in a logical sequence. This activity contributes to the development of memory, strengthens oral communication skills, and enhances students' ability to comprehend and reconstruct textual information accurately[1].

Another widely applied traditional technique is memorization, particularly of proverbs, sayings, riddles, and short folk expressions. This method enriches students' vocabulary, helps them internalize culturally significant expressions, and fosters an appreciation of folk wisdom embedded in oral traditions. In addition, explanatory reading is frequently used by teachers to clarify historical, archaic, or linguistically complex words and expressions found in folklore texts. Through this method, students gain a clearer understanding of the content and linguistic features of traditional narratives.

However, despite their importance, these traditional methods are largely based on reproductive learning activities. As a result, they may limit opportunities for students to develop independent thinking, analytical skills, and creative interpretation of folklore materials[2].

Discussion and results

In contrast to traditional approaches, modern educational technologies emphasize the active participation of learners in the educational process. Innovative methods in teaching folklore are designed to promote deeper understanding, critical thinking, and practical application of knowledge.

One effective approach is the use of graphic organizers such as clusters and INSERT techniques, which support the development of logical and analytical thinking. For example, while studying the fairy tale "*Zumrad and Qimmat*," students can create a cluster diagram highlighting Zumrad's positive qualities, such as diligence, kindness, wisdom, and neatness. This visual representation helps learners systematically compare characters and analyze their traits in a more structured and meaningful way. Another important method is the case study approach, which allows students to relate situations from fairy tales and legends to real-life contexts. For instance, posing a question such as "*If Zumrad lived in modern society, how would she protect her rights?*" encourages learners to think critically and develop legal, ethical, and social



reasoning skills. This method bridges the gap between traditional narratives and contemporary social realities[3].

Interdisciplinary integration further enhances the effectiveness of folklore education by connecting it with other academic disciplines. For example, animal tales can be studied alongside natural sciences, riddles can be used to solve mathematical and logical problems, and historical legends can be incorporated into history lessons. Such integration promotes holistic learning and helps students develop a more comprehensive understanding of knowledge across subjects.

In addition, the STEAM approach (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) is increasingly being applied in folklore education. Through this method, students engage in creative and practical tasks such as constructing models of environments described in fairy tales, preparing digital presentations, or performing dramatizations. These activities not only enhance engagement but also foster creativity, collaboration, and the practical application of knowledge in an interactive learning environment[4].

Table 1. Comparative Analysis of the Methods

Evaluation Criteria	Traditional Methods	Innovative Methods
Student's Role	Passive listener and performer	Active participant and researcher
Thinking Activity	Memorization and recall	Critical and creative thinking
Lesson Format	Lecture and discussion	Interactive, multimedia, and game-based
Teacher's Role	Knowledge provider	Facilitator and guide
Expected Outcome	Knowledge acquisition	Practical application of knowledge
Competencies Developed	Reproductive skills	Research and communication competencies

Conclusion

Folklore is a valuable component of a nation's spiritual heritage and a rich pedagogical resource with significant educational potential. Teaching folklore through a combination of traditional methods and innovative technologies, such as graphic organizers, case studies, STEAM, and interdisciplinary integration, contributes to the development of students' knowledge, skills, and competencies.

As a result, students become independent thinkers who appreciate national values and are well-prepared to meet the challenges of modern society as competitive and responsible individuals.



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