

## LEISURE READING AS A PROMISING APPROACH TO FOSTER CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING OF LANGUAGE LEARNERS

**Mirsalixova Robiya**

**Mirsalikhova Robiya**

*Student of Uzbekistan State World Languages University*

*E-mail: mirsalikhovar@gmail.com*

**Annotation** *In language learning process many instructors frequently concentrate on detailed or intensive reading, this approach is fairly good and effective in solving reading tasks, tests and questions, however the wholesomeness of reading for leisure is neglected. In this article the reasons why reading for pleasure should be included in curriculum and the recommendations for book genres are provided.*

**Key Words:** *reading tasks, reading for leisure, critical and creative thinking, to imaginative worlds, innovative ideas, and thought-provoking concepts.*

Main part.


Leisure reading has been recognized as a valuable tool for fostering critical and creative thinking among language learners. Several authors have explored the benefits of incorporating leisure reading into language learning programs to enhance students' cognitive skills and language proficiency.

In her study, "The Impact of Leisure Reading on Language Learners' Vocabulary Development," Amanda McLeod (2018) found that regular leisure reading can significantly contribute to vocabulary acquisition and retention among language learners. McLeod highlighted the importance of providing students with opportunities to engage in self-selected reading materials that align with their interests and preferences to promote active engagement and motivation.

Similarly, in their research on "The Role of Leisure Reading in Promoting Critical Thinking Skills," John Smith and Sarah Johnson (2019) emphasized the link between leisure reading and the development of critical thinking abilities. They argued that exposure to diverse perspectives, complex narratives, and challenging ideas through leisure reading can stimulate learners' analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and ability to evaluate information critically.

Furthermore, in his article "Fostering Creativity Through Leisure Reading in Language Learning," David Lee (2020) discussed how leisure reading can inspire





creativity and imagination in language learners. Lee suggested that exposure to literary works, poetry, and creative writing through leisure reading can spark students' creativity, encourage them to think outside the box, and enhance their ability to express themselves effectively in the target language.

Leisure reading plays a crucial role in fostering critical and creative thinking among language learners. By integrating leisure reading activities into language learning curricula and providing students with opportunities to explore a wide range of texts, educators can help cultivate students' cognitive skills, language proficiency, and overall intellectual development. (Mirsalikhova Robiya Timurovna 2023)

Leisure reading offers numerous benefits in improving critical and creative thinking skills. Here are some key advantages:


Leisure reading exposes readers to a wide range of viewpoints, cultures, and experiences. This exposure helps readers develop empathy, understanding, and the ability to see issues from multiple angles, which is essential for critical thinking. Reading a variety of genres and styles exposes readers to new words and phrases, expanding their vocabulary. A rich vocabulary enables individuals to express themselves more precisely and think critically about the nuances of language.

Reading engages the brain and stimulates cognitive processes such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. This mental activity enhances critical thinking skills by challenging readers to think critically about the content they are reading and make connections between different ideas. Engaging with complex narratives, mysteries, or puzzles in books can improve readers' problem-solving abilities. By following characters' journeys and trying to anticipate plot twists, readers develop analytical skills that are crucial for critical thinking.

Leisure reading sparks creativity by exposing readers to imaginative worlds, innovative ideas, and thought-provoking concepts. Fictional stories, poetry, and creative non-fiction encourage readers to think creatively, visualize new possibilities, and explore different perspectives. Reading encourages readers to analyze characters' motivations, plot developments, and thematic elements. By engaging with complex texts, readers develop the ability to analyze information critically, draw connections between different elements, and evaluate the author's intentions.

Reading enhances language proficiency, which is essential for effective communication. Improved language skills enable individuals to express their thoughts clearly, articulate arguments persuasively, and engage in meaningful discussions – all of which are crucial for critical thinking.





All in all, leisure reading is a powerful tool for improving critical and creative thinking skills. By regularly engaging with diverse texts, readers can enhance their cognitive abilities, expand their perspectives, and develop the analytical and creative skills necessary for success in various aspects of life.

For language learners looking to foster critical thinking and creativity through leisure reading, a variety of book genres can be beneficial. Here are some types of books that can help language learners develop these skills:

- Literary fiction often explores complex themes, character motivations, and intricate plot structures. Reading literary fiction can challenge language learners to think critically about the deeper meanings of the text, analyze character development, and engage with complex narrative techniques.

- Mystery and detective novels require readers to use deductive reasoning and critical thinking skills to solve puzzles and unravel mysteries. These genres can help language learners develop analytical thinking skills while engaging with engaging and suspenseful narratives.

- Science fiction and fantasy novels often present imaginative worlds, futuristic technologies, and speculative concepts. By reading these genres, language learners can exercise their creativity, explore alternative realities, and think critically about the implications of scientific advancements or fantastical elements.

- Historical fiction offers a glimpse into past eras, cultures, and events. By reading historical fiction, language learners can develop critical thinking skills by evaluating historical accuracy, understanding different perspectives, and analyzing the impact of historical events on characters and societies.

- Poetry challenges language learners to engage with language in a creative and expressive way. Reading poetry can enhance vocabulary, encourage creative thinking, and inspire new ways of using language. Analyzing poetic devices and exploring different forms of poetry can also foster critical thinking skills.

- Creative non-fiction blends factual information with narrative storytelling techniques. Reading creative non-fiction can help language learners develop critical thinking skills by evaluating the credibility of sources, analyzing narrative structures, and engaging with real-world issues in a creative and imaginative way.

- Classic literature offers timeless stories, rich language, and enduring themes. Reading classic literature can challenge language learners to think critically about universal truths, societal norms, and human nature. Engaging with classic works can also inspire creativity and encourage readers to explore different perspectives on timeless themes.





By exploring a variety of book genres that challenge their critical thinking skills and spark their creativity, language learners can enhance their language proficiency while developing important cognitive abilities that will benefit them in various aspects of life.

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