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CREATIVE PROJECTS AS A MEANS OF INCREASING STUDENTS' INTEREST IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract. This article examines the importance of creative projects in increasing students' interest and motivation in learning the Russian language. It highlights the role of project-based learning in developing communicative competence, independent thinking, creativity, and language skills. Particular attention is paid to the use of presentations, video projects, creative writing, cultural activities, and group assignments in Russian language lessons. The article also discusses the teacher's role in organizing creative activities and creating an effective learning environment.

Keywords: creative projects, Russian language, student motivation, project-based learning, communicative competence, creativity, interactive teaching methods.

Introduction. In modern education, increasing students' interest in learning languages is one of the important objectives of the teaching process. Learning the Russian language requires not only memorizing vocabulary and grammatical rules but also developing the ability to communicate effectively in different situations. However, traditional teaching methods do not always provide enough opportunities for students to express their opinions, demonstrate creativity, and use the language in practical contexts.

For this reason, the application of interactive and student-centered methods has become increasingly important. One of these methods is project-based learning, which encourages students to participate actively in educational activities. Creative projects make language lessons more interesting and meaningful by connecting theoretical knowledge with practical tasks.

Creative projects are an effective pedagogical tool that combines learning, research, communication, and independent activity. During project work, students collect information, discuss ideas, prepare educational materials, and present their results in Russian.

The use of creative projects contributes to the development of all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. For example, when preparing a presentation, students search for information and read different texts, write their own materials, practise pronunciation, and present their ideas orally.

Moreover, project activities increase students' motivation because they provide opportunities for independent decision-making and creative expression. Students become more interested in learning when they can choose topics related to their personal experiences, academic interests, and everyday life.

Creative projects also help create a friendly learning environment. Working in pairs or groups encourages students to exchange opinions, support one another, and develop confidence in using the Russian language.

Teachers can organize different types of creative projects according to students' language levels and educational needs.

Presentation projects. Students prepare presentations on topics such as Russian culture, literature, national traditions, famous writers, and historical personalities. These activities develop speaking skills, vocabulary, and the ability to organize information.

Video projects. Students create short educational videos, interviews, or dialogues in Russian. Preparing a video requires them to write a script, select appropriate expressions, practise pronunciation, and communicate effectively.

Creative writing projects. Students write short stories, essays, dialogues, letters, and descriptions. Such activities improve grammatical accuracy, vocabulary, and written communication.

Cultural projects. Students explore Russian traditions, national holidays, cuisine, and cultural heritage. For example, the project "Russian and Uzbek Traditions" allows students to compare cultural similarities and differences while practising descriptive and comparative language.

Role-play projects. Students prepare dialogues based on everyday situations, such as shopping, travelling, visiting a doctor, or communicating at a university. These activities help learners develop practical communication skills and become more confident speakers.

The teacher plays an important role in planning and managing creative project activities. First, the teacher selects a topic that corresponds to students' interests, language proficiency, and curriculum objectives. The tasks should be clear, achievable, and relevant to the lesson.

During the preparation process, students may work individually or in groups. The teacher provides instructions, recommends useful materials, explains unfamiliar vocabulary, and supports students when difficulties arise. At the same time, learners should be encouraged to make independent decisions and take responsibility for their work.

At the final stage, students present their projects and discuss the results. Assessment should consider language accuracy, creativity, content quality, presentation skills, and teamwork. Constructive feedback helps students recognize their strengths and improve their language performance.

The application of creative projects offers several important educational benefits. First, it increases students' motivation and makes language lessons more engaging. Second, it provides opportunities to use Russian in meaningful communication situations. Third, it develops independent learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities.

In addition, group projects strengthen cooperation and social interaction. Students learn to listen to different opinions, share responsibilities, and work towards common goals. Creative activities also help reduce the fear of making mistakes because students practise the language in a supportive environment.

However, effective project work requires careful planning. Teachers should consider differences in students' language proficiency, provide sufficient time, and ensure that every participant contributes to the final result.

Conclusion. Creative projects are an effective means of increasing students' interest in learning the Russian language. They create opportunities for active participation, independent thinking, cooperation, and practical communication. Through presentations, video projects, creative writing, cultural investigations, and role-play activities, students can improve their vocabulary, grammatical knowledge, and communicative competence.

The successful implementation of creative projects depends on appropriate topic selection, clear instructions, teacher support, and objective assessment. Therefore, integrating creative project activities into Russian language lessons can contribute to a more engaging, interactive, and student-centered educational environment.

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