



GENERAL DIDACTICS AND METHODS OF TEACHING MOTHER TONGUE

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: August 20th 2023 Accepted: September 20th 2023 Published: October 24th 2023</p>	<p>This article contains thoughts and comments about the general didactic and methods of teaching the mother tongue. The mother tongue, often referred to as the native language, holds a significant place in an individual's identity, culture, and cognitive development. Teaching the mother tongue effectively is essential in preserving linguistic heritage and fostering a deep understanding of cultural roots. Language is the primary tool for communication, cognitive development, and cultural expression.</p>
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Teaching in one's mother tongue provides a strong foundation for learning additional languages and academic subjects. It also strengthens the bond between generations and communities, preserving unique cultural nuances, traditions, and values. Understanding General Didactics in Mother Tongue Teaching:

- **Individualized Learning:** Mother tongue teaching should acknowledge the diverse linguistic abilities and learning styles of students. Educators must adopt individualized approaches, catering to students' unique needs, strengths, and challenges.
- **Interactive Learning:** Engaging students in interactive activities, discussions, and storytelling sessions enhances language comprehension. Interactive learning fosters active participation, improving vocabulary, grammar, and communication skills.
- **Incorporating Technology:** Integrating technology, such as language learning apps and multimedia resources, enhances the learning experience. Interactive software and online platforms offer engaging exercises, pronunciation guides, and language games, making learning enjoyable and effective.

Methods in Mother Tongue Teaching:

- **Total Physical Response:** TPR emphasizes learning through physical activity and movement. Teachers give commands in the mother tongue, and students respond with appropriate actions. This method aids vocabulary acquisition and comprehension by linking words with actions, making learning memorable and enjoyable.
- **Language Immersion:** Immersion programs surround students with the mother tongue in various contexts. Language immersion fosters natural language acquisition, encouraging students to think, speak, and express themselves in the mother tongue. Cultural activities and events further enrich the learning experience.
- **Storytelling and Literature:** Stories and literature provide a rich source for language learning. Reading and listening to stories in the mother tongue enhance vocabulary, comprehension, and creativity. It also instills a love for literature and cultural storytelling traditions.
- **Project-Based Learning:** PBL integrates language learning with real-world projects. Students collaborate on projects related to their interests, exploring topics in the mother tongue. PBL enhances critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and language proficiency as students engage deeply with the subject matter.

Challenges and Solutions:

- **Language Standardization:** Dialectal variations and regional differences pose challenges in standardizing mother tongue education. Addressing these challenges requires a flexible curriculum that acknowledges linguistic diversity while maintaining a standardized written form of the language.
- **Language Endangerment:** Some mother tongues face the threat of extinction due to globalization and cultural assimilation. Preservation efforts include community initiatives, cultural events, and intergenerational language transmission, ensuring the language is passed down to future generations.
- **Limited Resources:** In many educational settings, resources for mother tongue teaching are limited. Collaboration between communities, educational institutions, and government bodies can help allocate resources, develop teaching materials, and provide training for teachers, ensuring effective mother tongue education.

Mother tongue teaching is a fundamental component of education, promoting linguistic proficiency, cultural identity, and intergenerational connections. By understanding the general didactics and employing diverse teaching methods, educators can create enriching learning experiences that empower students to embrace their language and heritage.

In a globalized world, valuing and preserving mother tongues is not just an educational endeavor but a celebration of human diversity and cultural richness, ensuring that the tapestry of languages continues to flourish for generations to come.

Teaching the mother tongue is a profound responsibility, one that goes beyond the classroom walls and into the heart of cultural preservation and linguistic heritage. In a world that often celebrates global languages, the significance of teaching mother tongues cannot be overstated.

One of the most effective ways to teach a mother tongue is through interactive language activities. These activities engage students actively, encouraging them to participate in conversations, debates, and group discussions in their native language. Interactive activities not only enhance vocabulary and grammar but also improve communication skills. Role-playing, debates, and storytelling sessions in the mother tongue create a dynamic learning environment where students can apply their language skills in real-life situations.

Language and culture are intertwined aspects of a community's identity. Teaching the mother tongue should include a focus on cultural integration. Incorporating cultural elements, such as traditional music, dance, art, and folklore, into the curriculum enhances students' understanding of their heritage. Celebrating cultural festivals, inviting guest speakers, and organizing field trips to culturally significant sites provide immersive experiences that reinforce the importance of the mother tongue in preserving traditions.

Introducing students to the rich literary heritage of their mother tongue can ignite a passion for reading and writing. Studying classical and contemporary literature in the native language not only expands vocabulary but also exposes students to various writing styles and genres. Discussing literary works, analyzing poems, and interpreting stories enhance critical thinking skills. Additionally, encouraging students to create their own stories, essays, and poems fosters creativity and self-expression.

Language immersion programs offer an immersive learning experience where students are surrounded by the mother tongue in various contexts. These programs create an environment where the language is not just a subject of study but a medium of communication. Immersion programs can be conducted through thematic camps, language-intensive workshops, or even study abroad initiatives. Exposure to the language in real-life situations accelerates language acquisition and builds confidence in using the mother tongue.

Incorporating multimedia and technology into mother tongue teaching can enhance engagement and learning outcomes. Interactive language learning apps, educational videos, podcasts, and online language games provide supplementary resources that make learning enjoyable. These tools cater to diverse learning styles and allow students to practice language skills independently. Moreover, technology enables virtual interactions with native speakers, facilitating language practice and cultural exchange.

Oral storytelling is a powerful method of transmitting cultural knowledge and language skills from one generation to another. Encouraging students to participate in storytelling sessions not only improves their language proficiency but also strengthens their connection to the cultural narrative. Guest storytellers, grandparents, or community members can be invited to share traditional stories, myths, and legends, creating a sense of continuity between generations.

Teaching the mother tongue is crucial for preserving cultural heritage and fostering linguistic proficiency. Effective methods go beyond traditional approaches, embracing interactive techniques, cultural integration, literature appreciation, language immersion programs, multimedia resources, and storytelling. These methods create engaging, immersive, and meaningful learning experiences for students.

- Engaging students in conversations, debates, and group discussions in the mother tongue enhances vocabulary, grammar, and communication skills. Interactive activities like role-playing and storytelling create dynamic learning environments, enabling students to apply language skills practically.
- Incorporating cultural elements like music, dance, art, and folklore into the curriculum deepens students' understanding of their heritage. Celebrating festivals and organizing cultural field trips provide immersive experiences, reinforcing the importance of the mother tongue in preserving traditions.
- Studying literary works in the mother tongue exposes students to diverse writing styles and genres, enhancing critical thinking. Encouraging students to create their own stories and poems fosters creativity and self-expression, strengthening language skills.
- Language immersion programs provide real-life contexts for language use. Thematic camps, workshops, and study abroad initiatives immerse students in the language, accelerating language acquisition and building confidence in communication.
- Interactive language learning apps, educational videos, podcasts, and online games engage students and cater to various learning styles. Technology also enables virtual interactions with native speakers, facilitating language practice and cultural exchange.
- Oral storytelling is a powerful method for transmitting cultural knowledge and language skills. Inviting guest storytellers or community members to share traditional stories strengthens the connection between generations and reinforces language skills.

Employing these effective methods in teaching the mother tongue creates a holistic and enriching learning experience. By nurturing language proficiency and cultural identity, educators contribute significantly to the preservation of diverse languages and traditions in a globalized world, ensuring the continuity of rich cultural heritages for future generations.

CONCLUSION:

Teaching the mother tongue is a multifaceted endeavor that requires creativity, cultural sensitivity, and a deep understanding of pedagogical methods. By employing interactive activities, integrating cultural elements, appreciating literature, implementing immersion programs, embracing technology, and preserving oral traditions, educators can create a holistic learning experience for students. In doing so, they not only nurture language proficiency but also instill a sense of pride in one's cultural identity. The methods used to teach the mother tongue play a vital role in shaping the linguistic and cultural landscape of future generations, ensuring the preservation of diverse languages and traditions in an ever-changing world.

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