| Research Article

Use of Various Methods and Techniques in Developing Students' Reading Skills

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Abstract: Meaningful reading is one of the essential competencies in teaching the Russian language and literature, playing a crucial role in shaping a holistic understanding of the text. This active process of text comprehension requires not only superficial understanding of its content but also deep analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of the author's ideas and intentions. In the context of modern educational standards, the emphasis on meaningful reading has become particularly relevant. This underscores the necessity to cultivate critical thinking skills and analytical abilities among students, which are vital for enhancing reading literacy. Contemporary pedagogical approaches, such as project-based learning, inquiry-based activities, and the integration of digital technologies, create new opportunities for embedding meaningful reading into the educational process. Effective strategies like dialogic learning and cooperative methods promote student engagement, enabling them to share opinions and discuss various interpretations of the text. Furthermore, utilizing texts from diverse genres and styles aids in developing information literacy skills, which is especially important in the context of multilayered analysis. An important aspect is the integration of meaningful reading with other subjects, allowing for interdisciplinary connections and deepening the understanding of the texts studied. It is also significant to note that the formation of meaningful reading skills not only contributes to the personal development of students but also prepares them for life in an information society, where the ability to analyze and critically reflect on information is a decisive factor for success. Thus, meaningful reading is not merely an academic task but a crucial stage in training responsible and literate citizens.

Keywords: literacy, component, method, skill, reading, critical thinking, educational standards, meaningful reading.

Reading literacy is a key component of the educational process, determining students' success in various fields of knowledge (Solovyova, 2018). In the context of rapid changes in the information space and the development of digital technologies, the task of fostering reading literacy becomes especially relevant (Levitas, 2020). This process requires the use of diverse methods and

techniques aimed at developing critical thinking, analytical skills, and the ability to interpret texts (Zimnyaya, 2019).

The concept of reading literacy. Reading literacy is the set of skills necessary for understanding, analyzing, and interpreting texts (Alekseev, 2021). It is not only the ability to read and perceive information but also the capacity to evaluate a text, draw conclusions, and apply the acquired knowledge in various contexts (Kudryavtseva, 2022). According to modern educational standards, reading literacy includes several components: *textual literacy* — the ability to work with different types of texts (scientific, literary, informational); *critical thinking* — the ability to analyze information, identify the author's intentions and arguments; *informational literacy* — the skill to search for, evaluate, and use information from various sources; *social literacy* — the ability to understand and interpret texts within the social and cultural context (Mikhaylova, 2023).

Methods and Techniques for Developing Reading Literacy. To successfully develop students' reading literacy, it is necessary to employ various methods and techniques, which can be conditionally divided into several groups (Petrova, 2022).

Active teaching methods, such as discussions, project activities, and role-playing games, engage students in discussions of the texts they have read, promoting the development of critical thinking (Solovyova, 2018). Techniques for working with texts, including systematic analysis and modeling, help students gain a deeper understanding of the content and context (Levitass, 2020). Technological approaches, such as the use of interactive platforms and video materials, make the learning process more engaging and accessible (Kudryavtseva, 2022).

Methods for working with text include *systematic analysis of the text*—using various reading strategies (skimming, detailed reading) for deeper comprehension; modeling—creating mental models of the text to help students visualize information and improve memory; and text schemas and diagrams—utilizing different schemes (e.g., Venn diagrams, mind maps) to organize information from the text.

Technological techniques include *interactive platforms*—using online resources and applications for reading and analyzing texts, making the learning process more engaging and accessible; video materials—using videos to illustrate the read texts, which helps students better understand the information; electronic libraries and databases—training students to work with digital resources for searching and evaluating information.

Cross-cultural approach. A comparative analysis of texts from different cultures and the integration of literature with other subjects also contribute to the development of reading literacy (Alekseev, 2021).

Integrating literature with other disciplines involves using literary texts within history, art, and other subject lessons to create interdisciplinary connections. When discussing reading literacy, it is impossible not to mention semantic reading. Reading literacy and semantic reading are closely related, as both concepts focus on the ability to understand and interpret text.

Reading literacy is the ability not only to read a text but also to critically comprehend it, analyze information, draw conclusions, and apply knowledge in various contexts. It includes skills such as understanding, analyzing, and evaluating texts, as well as locating and using relevant information.

Semantic reading is one of the key competencies in teaching Russian language and literature. It is a process of active perception and meaningful analysis of a text, which allows one not only to understand the content but also to interpret it, identify subtext, and evaluate the author's ideas (Zimnyaya, 2019). In the context of modern educational standards, an emphasis on semantic reading becomes especially relevant, as it promotes the development of critical thinking, analytical skills, and an increased level of reading literacy. To be literate in reading, one must be

able to read not only at the letter and word level but also at the level of meanings, which requires active participation of the reader in the reading process (Mikhailova, 2023).

The concept of semantic reading. Semantic reading can be characterized as a multi-level process that includes several stages: predicting the content of the text, active reading, analysis and interpretation of information, and reflection (Alekseev, 2021). The tasks of semantic reading include understanding the text, analyzing its structure, interpreting, and critically comprehending it (Levitas, 2020).

Tasks of semantic reading. Semantic reading stands out among other types of reading because, during this process, the reader actively acquires the value-semantic component of the text, which involves interpretation and assigning meaning to the text.

The definition of "semantic reading" is based on the key concepts of "meaning" and "understanding." Meaning refers to the internal, logical content (of words, statements, phenomena) perceived by the mind. It is important to distinguish between the terms "meaning" and "significance." L. S. Vygotsky, in his work "Thinking and Speech" (Vygotsky, 1934), emphasized that the "significance" of a word reflects objective connections and relationships, whereas "meaning" includes subjective aspects of significance that depend on the specific situation and context.

The main tasks of semantic reading in the context of teaching Russian language and literature include: *understanding the text*—mastering the main semantic units such as theme, idea, plot, and their interrelations; *analyzing structure*—studying the composition of the text, identifying its main parts and their functions; *interpretation*—revealing the author's intent, evaluating artistic devices and their influence on the perception of the text; *critical reflection*—forming one's own opinion about what has been read, and developing the ability to argue one's point of view.

Methods and Techniques for Developing Meaningful Reading Skills. To effectively develop students' meaningful reading skills, various methods and techniques are used, such as: *discussion* — discussing the read text in a group helps students see different points of view and deepen their understanding; *working with questions* — creating questions about the text promotes active analysis and helps focus on key aspects; *diagrams and tables* — visualizing information through diagrams, tables, and mind maps helps structure knowledge; *reflection* — keeping a reader's journal or writing essays helps students comprehend what they have read and develop a personal attitude towards the text (Kudryavtseva, 2022).

Practicing Meaningful Reading in Lessons. In Russian language and literature lessons, it is important to integrate meaningful reading into the educational process (Petrova, 2022). This can be achieved through:

Reading fiction: selecting works that evoke interest and facilitate deep analysis.

Cross-disciplinary approach: linking literary material with history, culture, and other subjects.

Using digital technologies: interactive platforms and applications for text analysis can significantly increase students' motivation and engagement.

In the process of teaching Russian language and literature, several important aspects related to the tasks of meaningful reading can be identified. These aspects help deepen understanding of the text and develop students' analytical skills.

The first task is to *comprehend the content of the text*. This involves a detailed study of key semantic elements, such as the main theme, central idea, and plot. It is important not only to identify these elements but also to understand how they are interconnected, creating a holistic perception of the work.

The next aspect is *analyzing the structure of the text*. Here, the focus is on studying the composition, where students learn to identify the main parts of the text and understand their roles. Understanding how different elements of the text interact and support the overall idea is key to a deep perception of literary works.

Another important task is *interpreting the text.* This includes examining the author's intent and evaluating the artistic devices used by the author to convey their ideas. Students learn to notice how stylistic techniques and literary elements influence the overall perception and emotional tone of the work.

Finally, an equally important aspect is the *critical reflection on the reading material*. Students should develop the ability to form their own opinions about the text and be able to justify their views. This includes analyzing what has been read from different perspectives and engaging in reasoned discussions about literary and linguistic features.

Working with texts involves a comprehensive approach that not only promotes understanding of the content but also fosters critical thinking and analytical skills among students.

Semantic reading is an integral part of teaching Russian language and literature, contributing to the development of critical thinking and reading literacy (Mikhaylova, 2023). The implementation of modern methods and techniques in the educational process helps in cultivating students' skills of deep analysis and comprehension of texts, which, in turn, positively influences their overall cultural competence and ability to think independently (Zimnyaya, 2019). As semantic reading becomes increasingly relevant in the context of an information society, its development should become one of the priority tasks of modern education. Additionally, fostering reading literacy among school students requires a comprehensive approach and the use of various methods and techniques. It is important that teachers not only transmit knowledge but also develop students' skills in analysis, critical thinking, and working with texts. Modern technologies and active learning methods can significantly increase students' interest in reading and improve their reading skills, which, in turn, will have a positive impact on their overall educational success.

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