THE ROLE OF FAIRY TALES IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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Annotation: This article analyzes the role and importance of fairy tales in the process of learning English. It highlights the effectiveness of fairy tales in language acquisition, particularly in developing vocabulary, improving grammatical skills, and enhancing listening and speaking abilities. The article also emphasizes the contribution of fairy tales to learners' cultural awareness and increased motivation to learn. In addition, methodological approaches to using fairy tales in the classroom are discussed.

Keywords: Fairy tales, English language learning, vocabulary, grammar, listening comprehension, speaking skills, motivation, methodology.

Introduction

In the era of globalization, knowledge of the English language has become an important tool not only for academic and professional development but also for cultural exchange. However, the process of learning a language can often seem difficult and boring. In this regard, methods that increase learners' interest and encourage active participation are of great importance. One such effective tool is fairy tales. Although fairy tales have long been part of humanity's cultural heritage, today they are widely used as a pedagogical tool in language learning.

Fairy tales are literary works that usually contain fictional events, magical characters, and moral lessons. They are characterized by simple language, repetitive structures, and a clear plot. These features make them particularly suitable for learning English. Learners are able to acquire new vocabulary and expressions in a natural context without being overwhelmed by complex grammatical structures or scientific terminology.

Methods

Fairy tales are beneficial in language learning in three main areas: expanding vocabulary, understanding grammar and sentence structure, and developing listening and speaking skills. In addition, they broaden learners' imagination and enrich their cultural knowledge. Fairy tales use a distinctive type of language. Along with simple everyday words, they also include literary expressions, synonyms, and idiomatic phrases. For example, expressions such as "once upon a time" and "happily ever after" have become an integral part of the English language. By reading or listening to fairy tales, learners acquire new vocabulary through context. This makes memorization easier. Unlike mechanical memorization of isolated words, vocabulary learned through fairy tales is retained in long-term memory because it is reinforced through emotional and imaginative associations. Fairy tales are also useful in terms of grammar. They are usually written in simple tenses, especially the past simple tense, which is very convenient for beginners. As learners follow the sequence of events, they naturally acquire grammatical structures.

For example, sentences such as "The princess lived in a castle" or "The wolf ran into the forest" help learners understand past tense verb forms without explicit instruction. In addition, fairy

tales often include dialogues, which support the learning of direct speech and conversational language.

Discussion

Listening to fairy tales in audio form is also a highly effective method. It is especially beneficial for children and beginner-level learners. Through listening, learners become familiar with the sound system of English, and they develop an understanding of stress and intonation. Many fairy tales are written in a dramatized form, meaning that characters' emotions are clearly expressed. This helps learners experience the language emotionally. To improve pronunciation, learners can listen to fairy tales and then repeat them.

Fairy tales encourage learners to speak. For instance, teachers or students can retell a story, continue it, or express opinions about the characters, which helps develop speaking skills. This also enhances free thinking and the ability to express oneself in English.

Role-playing activities are also very effective in this process. Students can take on the roles of fairy tale characters, which allows them to learn not only the language but also emotional expression. Fairy tales reflect the culture of each nation. Through English fairy tales, learners become familiar with the values, traditions, and worldview of English-speaking societies. For example, stories such as "Cinderella," "Snow White," and "Jack and the Beanstalk" present concepts such as goodness and evil, hard work, and honesty. This makes language learning more meaningful. Learners not only study the language but also the culture of its speakers, which is an essential part of communicative competence.

Fairy tales also have a positive effect on learners' psychological state. They reduce stress and increase motivation to learn. For children, fairy tales turn learning into a game, which helps maintain their attention for a longer time.

For adults, fairy tales are also beneficial. They remind learners of childhood memories, making the learning process more enjoyable. In addition, fairy tales allow individuals to reflect on their inner world. Today, the opportunities for using fairy tales have expanded significantly. Through the internet, audio, video, and interactive fairy tales are easily accessible. Mobile applications and YouTube platforms have made it easier to listen to and watch English fairy tales.

For example, animated fairy tales allow learners to study through both visual and auditory input at the same time. This helps strengthen knowledge retention. Interactive fairy tales encourage active participation from learners. To use fairy tales effectively, teachers can apply the following methods: Studying the story in sections, combining it with vocabulary exercises, organizing role-play activities, checking comprehension through questions and answers, assigning students to write or continue fairy tales. These methods increase student engagement and make lessons more interesting.

Conclusion

Fairy tales are an extremely effective tool in learning English. They help learners acquire the language in a natural, engaging, and effective way. Fairy tales play an essential role in improving vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, speaking skills, and cultural awareness. Therefore, every English language learner should actively use fairy tales in their learning process. This not only improves knowledge but also makes the learning experience enjoyable and memorable.

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