

## APPROACH TO TEACHING THE NATIVE LANGUAGE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the importance of teaching the native language in elementary school, its role in the educational process, and effective approaches to increase students' interest in the language. The topic is explored through the lens of language teaching methodology, interactive methods, and modern pedagogical approaches. By learning the native language, students can develop a sense of national identity and a stronger desire to engage with the language.

**Keywords:** native language, elementary school, teaching approach, interactive methods, pedagogy, national identity, language learning

### Introduction

Language is one of the most crucial communicative tools for humans and an inseparable part of any society. Teaching the native language, especially in elementary school, plays a vital role in developing students' understanding of the language and fostering a love for it. The methods used to teach the language are essential not only for improving communication skills but also for introducing students to their cultural heritage, broadening their historical and cultural perspectives. Therefore, updating the approaches to teaching the native language in elementary school in line with modern educational principles is necessary.

Using interactive methods in teaching the native language in elementary school, conducting practical exercises, and promoting discussions and conversations can significantly accelerate the process of language acquisition. Additionally, the use of technology, multimedia tools, and educational materials plays a crucial role in engaging students and making language learning more enjoyable and effective.

### 1. The importance of teaching the native language in elementary school

In the early stages of a child's education, learning the native language plays a crucial role in shaping their cognitive abilities, communication skills, and cultural identity. The native language is not just a tool for communication, but a vessel for cultural values, traditions, and history. Teaching it from a young age helps build a foundation for both academic and personal development. It also strengthens the bond between the child and their community, fostering a sense of belonging and national pride.

### 2. Key objectives of native language teaching in primary school

➤ **Cognitive development:** Learning the native language in elementary school promotes cognitive skills such as memory retention, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Research has shown that early language acquisition enhances children's ability to think logically and abstractly.

- **Cultural identity:** The native language is directly tied to the culture, values, and traditions of a **community**. By teaching the language, children are exposed to their heritage, which helps cultivate a strong sense of identity and connection to their roots.
- **Effective communication Skills:** Mastery of the native language in elementary school lays the groundwork for proficient communication skills, which are necessary for academic success and social interaction. Strong communication skills in one's native language can also facilitate learning additional languages in the future.

### 3. Modern approaches to teaching the native language

The traditional approach to language teaching often relied on rote memorization, grammar drills, and repetitive exercises. While these methods may still hold some value, modern education demands a more interactive and student-centered approach. Some effective strategies include:

- **Interactive learning methods:** Activities such as group discussions, storytelling, role-playing, and debates can engage students and encourage active participation. These activities not only make learning more enjoyable but also provide opportunities for children to practice language in real-life contexts.
- **Technology integration:** In the digital age, educational technologies have become indispensable. **Interactive** apps, games, and digital storytelling tools can make learning the native language more fun and engaging. Additionally, online platforms can connect students with native speakers and language experts, providing a more immersive learning experience.
- **Multimedia resources:** Incorporating videos, music, and audio materials can help students understand the rhythm, pronunciation, and usage of the language in various contexts. Multimedia resources provide a dynamic way to reinforce vocabulary, grammar, and cultural expressions.
- **Project-based learning:** Encouraging students to undertake language-based projects, such as creating a class magazine, writing and presenting skits, or conducting interviews, can deepen their understanding of the language while fostering creativity and teamwork.

### 4. The role of teachers in native language instruction

Teachers play an instrumental role in shaping the attitudes and abilities of their students toward the native language. They must not only be proficient in the language themselves but also skilled in creating a supportive, encouraging, and interactive classroom environment. Some important aspects of a teacher's role include:

- **Creating a positive learning environment:** Teachers should foster a classroom atmosphere where students feel comfortable experimenting with language, making mistakes, and learning from them. Positive reinforcement and constructive feedback are essential for building confidence.
- **Cultural relevance:** Teachers can bring the native language to life by connecting it to real-world cultural contexts. This might involve incorporating local stories, folklore, and traditions into lessons, making the language more meaningful to students.
- **Continuous professional development:** Language teachers should engage in ongoing training and development to stay updated with the latest teaching methodologies, technological tools, and trends in education. This ensures that they are providing the most effective and relevant instruction to their students.

### 5. Challenges in teaching the native language in elementary school

While the benefits of teaching the native language are clear, there are challenges to its effective implementation:

- **Language attrition:** In some regions, especially those influenced by global languages like English, students may begin to lose proficiency in their native language as they are exposed to other languages more frequently. This can result in diminished language skills and cultural disconnect.
- **Lack of resources:** Many schools, particularly in underprivileged areas, may lack the necessary materials, trained educators, or funding to offer quality native language education.
- **Socioeconomic and demographic factors:** In multicultural societies, children may come from diverse linguistic backgrounds, and there might be a lack of uniformity in the level of proficiency in the native language, posing challenges in classroom instruction.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, teaching the native language in elementary schools is essential for fostering not only linguistic proficiency but also cultural identity and cognitive development in children. The early stages of language learning are crucial for shaping a child's communication skills, thought processes, and sense of belonging to their community. By employing modern teaching methods such as interactive learning, technology integration, and project-based approaches, educators can create an engaging and effective learning environment that resonates with students.

The active involvement of teachers, parents, and the community is vital in ensuring the success of native language education. Despite challenges such as language attrition and resource limitations, the benefits of maintaining and promoting the native language far outweigh these obstacles.

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