



## **THE IMPORTANCE AND FEATURES OF TEACHING STUDENTS MOTHER LANGUAGE**

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<b>A B S T R A C T</b>	<b>KEY WORDS</b>
Language is a fundamental aspect of human communication and identity. Teaching students their mother tongue plays a crucial role in cognitive development, cultural preservation, and academic success. This article explores the importance of mother tongue teaching and highlights the key features that contribute to effective language learning outcomes.	Mother tongue, Critical thinking, identity, Linguistic competence, cognitive abilities.

### **Introduction**

A mother tongue, also known as a mother tongue or mother tongue, is the foundation of an individual's linguistic abilities and cultural identity. Teaching students in their mother tongue is essential for building strong cognitive skills, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting academic achievement. This article explores the importance of mother tongue teaching and discusses the key features that make it a valuable educational practice.

### **Importance of Mother Tongue Teaching:**

1. Cognitive Development: Learning in one's mother tongue enhances cognitive development by developing comprehension, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Students who are fluent in their mother tongue demonstrate better overall academic performance and cognitive abilities.

Focusing on cognitive development through mother tongue knowledge is crucial for enhancing students' learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Research shows that students who are fluent in their mother tongue demonstrate higher academic performance and cognitive abilities in a variety of areas. More on the cognitive benefits of developing mother tongue knowledge:

### **Enhanced learning skills:**

- **Comprehension and recall:** Knowing a mother tongue allows students to better understand and retain information presented in educational materials. When students understand the language of instruction, they can engage more deeply with the content and learn concepts more effectively.

- **Knowledge Acquisition:** A strong foundation in the mother tongue helps to acquire new knowledge and skills. Students who are fluent in their mother tongue are better equipped to understand complex concepts, make connections between ideas, and apply what they have learned in different contexts.

## **Improved Critical Thinking Skills:**

- **Analytical Reasoning:** Knowledge of the mother tongue develops analytical thinking skills, allowing students to analyze information, evaluate evidence, and draw logical conclusions. Critical thinking skills are strengthened when students can effectively express their thoughts and ideas in their mother tongue.

- **Problem-solving Skills:** Knowledge of the mother tongue enhances problem-solving skills by enabling students to articulate their ideas clearly, identify key issues, and develop effective solutions. Language proficiency is closely linked to cognitive flexibility and innovative approaches to problem solving.

## **Cognitive Advantages and Academic Performance:**

- **Higher Academic Achievement:** Studies show that students who are fluent in their native language perform better academically than students with limited language proficiency. Native language proficiency is associated with higher scores on standardized tests, improved grades, and overall academic success.

- **Cognitive Abilities:** Native language proficiency is associated with enhanced cognitive abilities, including memory, attention, and executive function. Native language learners demonstrate cognitive control, speed of information processing, and mental flexibility that are important for academic performance.

**2. Preserving Cultural Heritage:** Native language is deeply connected to cultural identity and heritage. Teaching students in their native language preserves cultural traditions, values, and narratives, fostering a sense of belonging and pride in their cultural roots.

**3. Linguistic competence:** Knowledge of the mother tongue provides a solid foundation for acquiring additional languages. Students who are fluent in their mother tongue are better equipped to learn new languages and communicate effectively in a variety of linguistic contexts.

**4. Emotional connection:** Language is not only a means of communication, but also a means of expressing feelings, thoughts, and experiences. Teaching students in their mother tongue fosters a strong emotional connection to education and a positive attitude towards learning.

## **Characteristics of effective mother tongue teaching:**

**1. Culturally relevant content:** Incorporating culturally relevant texts, stories, and examples in mother tongue teaching helps students connect their learning to their cultural heritage and real-life experiences.

Incorporating culturally relevant content in mother tongue teaching is essential to engage students, foster a sense of cultural pride, and promote meaningful connections between their education and their heritage. By using culturally relevant texts, stories, and assessments, teachers can create deeper and more impactful learning experiences for students. How culturally relevant content enhances mother tongue teaching:

## **Linking learning to cultural heritage:**

- **Identity building:** Culturally relevant content helps to strengthen students' sense of identity and belonging by acknowledging and celebrating their cultural heritage. This allows students to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, develop a positive self-image, and take pride in their cultural background.

- **Cultural appreciation:** Exposure to culturally relevant texts, stories, and assessments encourages students to appreciate and respect different cultural perspectives, traditions, and values. This fosters intercultural understanding and empathy among students of different backgrounds.

## **2. Engagement and relevance:**

- **Increased engagement:** Using culturally relevant content engages students in the learning process and increases their engagement. When students see the relevance of their cultural experiences in the curriculum, they are more motivated to actively participate and invest in their learning.

- **Real-world connections:** Culturally relevant content allows students to make connections between learning and real-life experiences. By exploring familiar topics, contexts, and stories, students can apply their knowledge to practical situations and better understand the relevance of their learning.

## **Cultural Literacy and Awareness:**

- **Cultural Literacy:** Exposure to culturally relevant texts and stories increases students' cultural literacy by deepening their understanding of the customs, traditions, and values within and beyond their own communities. This broadens students' perspectives and broadens their worldview.

- **Cultural Awareness:** By incorporating diverse cultural perspectives and voices into the curriculum, teachers develop cultural awareness and sensitivity among students. Culturally relevant content encourages students to appreciate and respect the richness of human diversity.

## **Strengthening Student Voice and Representation:**

- **Student Empowerment:** Culturally relevant content validates students' experiences and empowers them to share their stories, perspectives, and insights. It provides students with a platform to authentically express themselves and contribute to the learning community.

- **Representation:** By including diverse voices and stories in mother tongue teaching, all students feel represented and valued in the learning environment. This promotes a sense of inclusion, equity, and belonging for students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

**2. Interactive and engaging activities:** The use of interactive and engaging teaching methods, such as role-playing, group discussions, and multimedia resources, enhances student participation and understanding.

**3. Language Immersion:** Creating an immersive language environment where students use their mother tongue in a variety of contexts inside and outside the classroom helps to increase language fluency and proficiency.

**4. Individualized learning:** Recognizing and accommodating students' diverse learning styles, abilities, and needs ensures that each student receives personalized support to maximize their language learning opportunities.

## **Conclusion:**

Educating students in their mother tongue is a multifaceted endeavor that encompasses cognitive, cultural, and linguistic aspects. By recognizing the importance of mother tongue instruction and implementing the key features of effective teaching practices, teachers can enable students to develop strong language skills, preserve their cultural heritage, and achieve academic success. Adopting mother tongue as the cornerstone of education is not only a pedagogical imperative, but also a celebration of linguistic diversity and cultural richness in the global educational landscape.

In conclusion, it can be said that developing mother tongue proficiency plays a significant role in enhancing students' cognitive development, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and overall academic performance. By prioritizing language proficiency in education, teachers enable students to excel academically, think critically, and master complex learning tasks with confidence and skill. Knowledge of a native language not only aids cognitive development, but also contributes to students' overall academic success and ability to engage in lifelong learning.

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