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## THE IMPORTANCE OF BASIC LITERARY COMPETENCES

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**ABSTRACT:** The concept of literary competence encompasses the knowledge and skills required to comprehend, interpret, and appreciate literary texts. This article explores the importance of basic literary competences in the educational context and beyond. We will examine the role these competences play in fostering critical thinking, creativity, cultural understanding, and emotional intelligence. Moreover, the article will outline strategies for cultivating these competences in educational settings, emphasizing the need for an integrative approach to literature education. The significance of basic literary competences in today's rapidly changing, media-saturated world will also be highlighted.

**KEYWORDS:** Literary competences, Pedagogical process, Critical thinking, Cultural awareness, Communication skills, Curriculum development, Personal development.

### INTRODUCTION

Literature has long been regarded as a vital component of education and personal development. The ability to engage with and analyze literary texts not only enhances language skills but also promotes critical thinking, cultural awareness, and empathy. Basic literary competences, which include the ability to read, comprehend, and interpret literary works, serve as the foundation for more advanced levels of literary analysis and appreciation.

In today's fast-paced world, where digital communication often overshadows traditional reading practices, it is essential to reassess the value of literary competences and how they can be effectively taught and developed. This article explores the importance of these competences in the context of personal, academic, and professional growth.

#### The Concept of Basic Literary Competence

Literary competence refers to the ability to understand, interpret, and appreciate literature. It involves a range of skills, including:

- 1. Reading Comprehension:** Understanding the literal meaning of a text, identifying key themes, and recognizing the structure of literary works.
- 2. Interpretation:** Analyzing underlying meanings, symbolic elements, and the author's intent.
- 3. Critical Thinking:** Evaluating the themes, characters, and stylistic choices in a text, and reflecting on their broader implications.
- 4. Cultural Awareness:** Understanding the historical, social, and cultural contexts in which a work of literature was produced.
- 5. Creative Engagement:** Using literature as a springboard for creative thought and personal expression.

These competences form the foundation of a reader's ability to engage deeply with texts, fostering both intellectual and emotional development.

### **The Role of Literary Competences in Education**

Basic literary competences are integral to a well-rounded education. They contribute to the development of cognitive and emotional skills that are crucial for success in a variety of fields. Several key aspects underscore the importance of these competences:

- 1. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Reading literature encourages students to analyze complex situations, recognize diverse perspectives, and develop reasoned conclusions. These skills are transferrable to other academic subjects and real-life scenarios.
- 2. Cultural Understanding:** Literature provides insight into different cultures, historical periods, and societal structures. By engaging with texts from a variety of backgrounds, students develop a deeper understanding of the world and their place within it.
- 3. Emotional Intelligence:** Literature allows readers to explore the emotions and experiences of characters, helping them develop empathy and self-awareness. These emotional skills are essential for personal relationships and professional environments.
- 4. Language and Communication Skills:** Engaging with literature enhances vocabulary, grammar, and language usage, improving overall communication abilities.
- 5. Creativity and Imagination:** Literary texts often challenge readers to think beyond the literal meaning of words and to imagine alternative worlds, ideas, and solutions. This fosters creativity, which is increasingly valued in various professional fields.

### **Strategies for Cultivating Basic Literary Competences**

To foster literary competences effectively, educators must implement strategies that encourage active and reflective engagement with literature. Some key strategies include:

- 1. Interactive Reading Practices:** Encouraging students to read texts aloud, engage in group discussions, and share their interpretations fosters a more interactive learning environment. Peer feedback also enhances critical thinking.
- 2. Contextual Analysis:** Teaching students to consider the historical, social, and cultural contexts of literary works deepens their understanding of both the text and its relevance to current issues.
- 3. Creative Writing Exercises:** Allowing students to write their own literary works, whether in the form of short stories, poetry, or essays, helps them internalize narrative structures, character development, and thematic analysis.
- 4. Use of Technology:** Digital tools and online platforms can support literary learning by offering access to a wider range of texts, interactive literary discussions, and analytical tools.
- 5. Cross-Disciplinary Approaches:** Integrating literature with other subjects, such as history, philosophy, or science, can provide students with a holistic view of how literature reflects and influences various aspects of life.

### **The Relevance of Literary Competences in the Modern World**

In the age of digital media, the traditional role of literature in education faces new challenges. With the rise of social media, multimedia platforms, and instant communication, the sustained focus required for literary reading may seem less relevant to younger generations. However, this context only increases the importance of literary competences.

1. **Digital Literacy and Critical Analysis:** As media consumption becomes increasingly visual and fast-paced, the ability to analyze and interpret information critically remains crucial. Literary competences support the skills needed to discern truth from misinformation, identify bias, and evaluate sources.

2. **Emotional and Social Well-being:** In a time when people are more connected digitally yet often feel emotionally isolated, literature provides a unique way to connect with human experiences across time and space. This connection fosters emotional well-being and a sense of shared humanity.

3. **Global Cultural Awareness:** With the world becoming more interconnected, understanding diverse cultural narratives through literature helps promote tolerance and global citizenship. Literary competences equip individuals to engage meaningfully in cross-cultural dialogue.

### CONCLUSION

Basic literary competences are essential for the intellectual, emotional, and social development of individuals. By fostering critical thinking, cultural understanding, emotional intelligence, and creativity, these competences prepare students for academic success and a meaningful engagement with the world around them. In an era dominated by digital media, the ability to read, interpret, and appreciate literature is more relevant than ever, providing individuals with the skills to navigate a complex and interconnected world.

Educators, therefore, must prioritize the development of literary competences through innovative and integrative teaching strategies, ensuring that students are equipped with the tools necessary to thrive in both their personal and professional lives.

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