
THE ROLE OF FAIRY TALES IN THE FORMATION OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL COMPETENCIES WHEN STUDYING RUSSIAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract:

This article examines the issue of the role of fairy tales in the process of learning Russian as a foreign language. The study confirms the effectiveness of using fairy tales in educational contexts as they enable students to develop linguistic and cultural competence. Through the analysis of the motives presented in fairy tales, students can immerse themselves more deeply in Russian culture and understand the mentality of the native language nation.

Keywords

Fairy tales, foreign language learning, Russian language, teaching methods, authentic material, cultural values, mentality, fairy tale motifs, language skills, cultural adaptation.

Introduction

One of the main tasks of teaching a foreign language is the development of a special system that will allow students to successfully adapt to the language environment. To achieve this goal, it is necessary not only to properly organize the learning process but also to use the most effective teaching methods. To properly organize the learning process, it is important to immerse the student in a foreign language and cultural environment. The use of authentic materials allows foreign students to acquaint themselves with the cultural values of native speakers and master the characteristics of another nation. In Russian language classes, the student will master not only neutral, commonly used vocabulary necessary for a certain level of language proficiency but also vocabulary with a national-cultural component. The effectiveness of learning largely depends on the active participation of the student in the learning process, therefore it is necessary to use active and interactive teaching methods and offer students creative tasks. Of course, while reading, students will pay attention to the differences between their native and foreign cultures, but it is also important to focus their attention on the similarities so that they feel more comfortable in a foreign language environment. Teaching content in fairy tales is carried out rationally: the vocabulary being studied is in context, which facilitates its sanitization; grammatical phenomena are used in inappropriate, “natural” speech situations. When learning a foreign language, it is important to correctly understand speech intentions and highlight the most important information. A correctly designated topic of speech and the intentions of the interlocutor ensure successful communication, so there is a need to train students to work with the topic. The theme is the

central idea of any work, and the motives are significant to the plot but are suggestive. In the dictionary E.G. Asimov's motive is a set of external and internal conditions that cause the activity of the subject and determine its direction [1, p . 148].

To gain a deeper understanding of the work, you must have the ability to analyze motives. The simplest material for analyzing motives is fairy tales since they exist in every culture. The simplicity of the plot allows us to demonstrate the interconnection of all motives and determine their role in revealing the theme. Fairy tales reveal the mentality of the people, talk about cultural values, and traditions and reflect the details of real people's lives. Fairy tales point not only to differences but also to the origins of different cultures. Russian folk tale stands out among other authentic materials for studying the Russian language with their originality and special character. The language of the tales is simple, as they are intended for children. The action of the fairy tale does not violate the chronology of events and does not have parallel developing storylines. Each type of fairy tale is also characterized by certain heroes: Baba Yaga, Koschey the Immortal, Zmey Gorynych for a fairy tale, and hares or a garden for a fairy tale about animals. The heroes of fairy tales are characterized by generality: they are carriers of one quality, which determines their character.

In fairy tales, you can find descriptions of rituals, national dishes, and Russian landscapes, which makes working with the material of fairy tales useful for a deeper mastery of the country and the language being studied [2, p. 17]. Studying fairy tales is an important stage of immersion in culture, allowing you to become familiar with the specific features and Russian mentality.

In addition, fairy tales are a source of valuable cultural information, such as folk customs, beliefs, and traditions. They help students expand their horizons and understand the peculiarities of the mentality and cultural values of the people whose language they are studying.

Studying fairy tales also helps develop language skills and enrich vocabulary. Thanks to the fun and ease of reading, fairy tales motivate students to actively learn the language and improve their lexical and grammatical levels.

Folk tales usually contain a small number of motifs, which makes them easier to analyze. In addition, the motifs of fairy tales are often tripled, for example through three riddles, three trials, or three encounters. V.Ya. Propp also notes that fairy tale motifs tend to be paired. If there is a prohibition in a fairy tale, then it will be broken, and every question will be answered, and every problem will ultimately be solved. [3, p. 144].

Dividing a fairy tale into motives allows you not only to separate linguistic manifestations but also to make the lesson more dynamic. By moving from one activity to another, students will move further through the story, actively interacting with the text and developing their language skills.

Despite the initial need for a large number of repetitions and simplicity of the plot in oral folk tales, today this property allows us to speak about the significant methodological potential of this genre. Fairy tales contain a significant number of proverbs and sayings, as well as colloquial vocabulary. It is worth noting that thanks to the context, students can

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easily understand the meaning of set expressions. The repetition and pairing of semantic elements of a fairy tale are emphasized by lexical and grammatical units. Despite the richness of the Russian language, each recurring element of the tale uses the same lexical expressions, although the hero may change. This suggests that each fairy tale motif has its own set of linguistic units.

For example, the phrase “Kolobok, Kolobok, I’ll eat you!” “Don’t eat me, Hare (Wolf/Bear/Fox), I’ll sing you a song” is repeated four times in the fairy tale “Kolobok”. This motive helps to reveal the main idea and emphasize the importance of what is happening. Without such a motive for the meeting, the full development of the plot of the fairy tale is impossible. It is possible to use this repetition when studying the simple future tense.

As a task for students, you can ask them to play the role of Kolobok and think about possible answers to the phrase “Don’t eat me, Hare, I (what will I do?) ...” This exercise will help develop students' creative potential. Analyzing the motives of a fairy tale and determining their significance for the development of the plot also opens up the opportunity to complete the task of writing your fairy tale. Using material from a fairy tale, this goal can be achieved: by presenting a new grammatical structure and examples of its use in speech, as well as creating a situation for modeling a conversation.

Russian folk tales reflect the life and realities of the past, which can cause difficulties for foreigners due to differences in cultures [4, p. 286]. An adaptation of a fairy tale or an image can help clarify the definition of a household item, but sometimes it is worth introducing students to the history of the presented object. For example, in the fairy tale " Pushchuchye " mulier..." The stove plays an integral role, so the lesson may include an explanation of what it was used for and why Emelya chose it as a means of transport. Thus, one of the teacher's tasks is to provide students with the cultural information necessary to understand the tale.

In addition, it is important to realize that every tale contains moral lessons and symbolic overtones that may require specific explanation and interpretation. In analyzing and studying folk tales, students are encouraged to conduct an in-depth analysis of the elements of the tale, such as characters, action, and plot, and explore their relationship to the culture and traditions of the people. Ultimately, studying folk tales helps students not only improve their language skills but also expand their cultural understanding and ability to analyze symbolic stories. [5, p. 328]

Many folk tales are being rewritten in a modern style, old stories undergo serious transformations, and heroes are no longer clearly on the side of good or evil. On the one hand, such changes are completely justified, since fairy tales must be relevant to be interesting, but on the other hand, part of the history and culture is lost during adaptation. As a task in Russian as a foreign language, you can ask students to “modernize” a fairy tale they already know. Based on this task, you can analyze changes in the way of life and cultural values of people, which are reflected in new versions of fairy tales.

Such modernized tales reflect sociocultural changes in society and fit modern views on morality and values. However, it is important to preserve the main motives and values of the original fairy tale to maintain connections with folk tradition and cultural heritage. Understanding and analyzing these changes will help students develop a critical perspective on contemporary trends in literature and culture, as well as an understanding of the role of fairy tales in shaping cultural identity.

Thus, it can be noted that the use of fairy tales in the process of studying Russian as a foreign language has significant methodological potential. Fairy tales are authentic and accessible material that allows students to immerse themselves in the cultural environment and learn to understand the characteristics of the native-speaker nation. Analysis of motifs in fairy tales contributes to a deep understanding of the work, revealing the national mentality and cultural values. Studying fairy tales develops language skills, enriches vocabulary, and helps to understand the peculiarities of the Russian mentality. Overall, the use of fairy tales is an effective teaching method that promotes the development of students' linguistic and cultural competence.

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