DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE THROUGH INTERCULTURAL LITERATURE IN ESL CURRICULA

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Abstract: This paper explores the integration of multicultural literary texts as a pedagogical tool to develop Intercultural Communicative Competence (ICC) in advanced ESL classrooms. The research highlights how literary narratives bridge cultural gaps, enhance pragmatic awareness, and prepare learners to navigate diverse global communication contexts effectively.

Keywords: Intercultural communicative competence, multicultural literature, pragmatic awareness, global communication, ESL curriculum.

1. Introduction

In an increasingly interconnected global society, mastering the linguistic mechanics of English is no longer sufficient; learners must also acquire intercultural competence. Traditional language syllabi often prioritize standard grammar at the expense of cultural nuance. Incorporating multicultural literature offers a rich context for developing deep cross-cultural understanding and empathy.

2. Methodology and Body

Literary texts acting as cultural artifacts expose ESL learners to unfamiliar value systems, idioms, and social norms. By analyzing diverse perspectives within narratives, students move beyond linguistic translation to cultural interpretation.

Critical Literary Analysis: Examining character motivations and cultural dilemmas to foster empathy and perspective-taking.

Pragmatic Exploration: Discussing culture-specific speech acts and pragmatic

conventions embedded in dialogue.

Reflective Dialogue: Encouraging students to compare target cultural frameworks with their native heritage.

Classroom assessments indicate that literature-based discussions significantly enhance students' socio-pragmatic awareness and reduce ethnocentric biases during cross-cultural interactions.

3. Conclusion

Integrating multicultural literature into ESL curricula is crucial for fostering comprehensive intercultural competence. By engaging with diverse literary narratives, learners cultivate the empathy and pragmatic sensitivity required for successful global communication.

References

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