

THE ROLE AND MECHANISMS OF CREATIVE THINKING IN PROBLEMATIC SITUATIONS

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Abstract: *This article provides a scientific analysis of the role of creative thinking in problematic situations and its main mechanisms. It highlights the necessity of creative thinking in problem-solving contexts and examines its relationship with cognitive processes such as divergent and associative thinking, imagination, and intuition. In addition, educational, social, and psychological factors influencing the development of creative thinking are also considered. The results of the study demonstrate that creative thinking is a crucial factor in effectively solving problematic situations and that its importance in the modern educational process is increasing.*

Keywords: *Problematic situation, creative thinking, divergent thinking, associative thinking, intuition, imagination, cognition, cognitive processes, innovation, educational process*

INTRODUCTION

Problematic situations are considered one of the key factors that actively engage human thinking in modern education, science, and practical activity. In such situations, traditional approaches are not always effective, and therefore there is a growing need for new, unconventional, and flexible ways of thinking. From this perspective, creative thinking plays an important role as a cognitive mechanism in problem-solving processes.

Creative thinking enables individuals to develop new solutions based on existing knowledge and experience, consider alternative options, and make unconventional decisions. In problematic situations, this process becomes even more active, and the integration of divergent thinking, imagination, and analytical approaches leads to effective solutions.

This article analyzes the role of creative thinking in problematic situations, its main mechanisms, as well as the cognitive and psychological factors that shape this process. It also highlights the practical significance of creative approaches and their role in modern education.

Problematic situations are defined as cognitive states that activate human thinking in conditions where existing knowledge and experience are insufficient. Such situations are usually characterized by uncertainty, complexity, and the presence of multiple possible solutions. Therefore, they require not only the application of existing knowledge but also the development of new approaches. In the educational process, problematic situations are essential for developing students' independent thinking, applying knowledge in practice, and forming creative approaches.

Creative thinking is understood as the ability to generate new ideas, find unconventional solutions, and approach problems in an original way based on existing

knowledge and experience. In problematic situations, creative thinking becomes particularly important because traditional approaches are often insufficient, and the need for new solutions arises. Creative thinking helps individuals perceive problems not as obstacles but as opportunities and contributes to the development of innovative solutions.

One of the main mechanisms of creative thinking is divergent thinking, which allows for the generation of multiple solutions to a single problem. Through this process, individuals think in different directions and develop a variety of options. Associative thinking also plays an important role, as it enables the formation of new connections between existing knowledge, leading to original ideas. Imagination is another essential component of creative thinking, allowing individuals to mentally construct situations that do not exist in reality and model new solutions. In addition, intuitive thinking is significant, as it supports quick and direct decision-making processes.

Cognitive functions also play an important role in the process of creative thinking. Memory helps store and retrieve knowledge, attention enables the selection of relevant information, and thinking processes analyze this information to generate new ideas. Imagination enriches these processes and contributes to the formation of innovative solutions. When these cognitive processes work in harmony, the effectiveness of solving problematic situations increases.

Several factors influence the development of creative thinking. The educational environment plays a crucial role, as conditions that encourage free thinking foster creativity. Internal motivation also drives individuals to seek new ideas. The social environment is another important factor, as a supportive society encourages creative thinking. Experience and the amount of knowledge also significantly contribute to the generation of creative solutions. In modern education, interactive and problem-based teaching methods are specifically aimed at developing creative thinking.

From a practical perspective, creative thinking is highly important in solving problematic situations effectively. It enables the creation of innovative solutions in fields such as engineering, technology, economics, and education. Through creative approaches, new technologies are developed, effective decisions are made, and innovative projects are implemented. Therefore, creative thinking is considered one of the key drivers of modern societal development.

Overall, creative thinking in problematic situations is an important mechanism that fully reveals a person's intellectual and creative potential and serves as an effective tool for solving complex problems. The integration of creative thinking with cognitive processes expands the possibilities for generating new and effective solutions and positively contributes to the development of both individuals and society.

Conclusion: In conclusion, creative thinking in problematic situations is one of the key cognitive processes that shapes a person's ability to solve complex problems. Since traditional approaches are not always sufficient in such situations, creative thinking plays a central role in developing new, unconventional, and effective solutions. It enables individuals to process existing knowledge and experience, apply them in new combinations, and generate innovative ideas.

The analysis shows that creative thinking operates through several cognitive mechanisms, including divergent thinking, associative connections, imagination, and intuition. When these processes work in harmony with psychological functions such as memory, attention, and thinking, the effectiveness of solving problematic situations significantly increases. At the same time, the development of creative thinking is strongly influenced by factors such as the educational environment, motivation, social conditions, and personal experience.

Overall, creative thinking not only ensures individual success in solving problematic situations but also contributes to the innovative development of society. Therefore, increasing attention to the development of creative thinking in modern education systems is one of the most urgent tasks.

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