PATRIOTIC EDUCATION OF PRIMARY-SCHOOL LEARNERS BY MEANS OF VISUAL ARTS IN THE ENGLISH LESSONS

The New Ukrainian School is constantly developing. It reveals something new both for children and teachers. A view of patriotism is formed from early childhood back at school. Patriotic education of young schoolchildren is so important particularly at the time our native land is in danger still suffering from hostilities.

A word “patriotism” (from “patris”) has a Greek origin and means “a motherland”. It first appeared during the French Revolution (1789-1793). People who struggled for their nation and protected their native land were called patriots. The concept of “patriotism” presupposes love to your motherland, country’s history, its culture and nature. Pupils open up a country for themselves as a thing that should be loved, protected and devoted to. The main goal of school and teachers is to raise a child as a true citizen of Ukraine and patriot having personal responsibility towards a native country. Bringing up future patriots, a teacher should be aware of children’s peculiarities in respect to their worldview and comprehension formation.

The main aspect of patriotic education is to fix a colorful and unforgettable childhood in young pupils’ imagination together with some images of native land and nature schoolchildren will be bearing in mind all their life. A problem of patriotic education has always been vital in pedagogy and philosophy. In the scope of Ukrainian literature the patriotic education itself is explained by upbringing that forms a certain understanding of your closeness to a native land, history and art in the better future of your nation.

Art is a special form of reality reflection, an aesthetic artistic phenomenon showing expressive moments of our surrounding, human inner peace via a conceptualization of fundamental categories such as “beauty”, “harmony”, “proportionality”, “impeccability”, self-awareness and patriotism. The importance of arts in the formation of young pupils’ patriotic education is a social heritage of every nation where you can find a reflection of worldview, traditions, artistic and moral values as well as historical occurrences. Ukraine isn’t an exception since every Ukrainian handicraft dates back to ancient times. Combining practical and aesthetic functions, the art serves as an environment of national material and spiritual culture being so important to a revelation of children’s natural abilities and their creativity, a formation of individuality, genuine spiritual world, own active life position, feelings of obligation, devotion and diligence.

Art works are those spiritual contexts triggering off the formation of worldview, national consciousness, aesthetic ideals, moral values, personal patriotic and labor qualities. The constant stay of children under the influence of national material and
Spiritual culture is an integral part of their individuality and own active life position formation [1].

Art should contribute to children’s national feelings awakening, a respect and love to their nation, everlasting moral and spiritual achievements. On this basis we form socially important features of Ukrainian citizens such as national consciousness, spirituality, labor activeness, moral, ethical, physical, economic and legal culture.

Artistic means should become those instruments which enrich pupils spiritually and form their consciousness on a national basis. That’s why every acquaintance with art must be a real revelation for pupils, a new page on the way of conceiving the world, beautiful and unknown things. The imaginative and colorful world perception of pupils contributes to their fantasy, imagination, development of space thinking, mental and cognitive abilities. Art must cultivate children’s aesthetic tastes. A task of every teacher is to encourage pupils’ best qualities. Art is about creative expression of the learners, uniquely contributed by each one.

A real life testifies that children show a great interest in national art works and create extraordinary stuff. Using visual art in patriotic education provides necessary conditions to reveal natural inclinations, abilities, a creative worldview of pupils in order to realize their potential. It’s an integral part of native nation vital activity and creativity [2].

In the English lessons, patriotic education employs a variety of artistic means ranging from national symbols and signs to the visualization of national traditions and ceremonies. English teachers can encourage schoolchildren’s patriotism owing to some visual arts. English lessons can be collective ones according to the form of arrangement when all children are involved in work. Individual lessons tend to a child’s activity on their own or group projects when a number of pupils develop their creative aspirations. For example, a teacher can propose children to paint a common poster on the issue “Peace in Ukraine”, individual postcards to support ATO warriors, future letters for our country or a creation of national symbol ornaments. Painting eggs (Pysankarstvo) could be a vivid example of children involvement in patriotism. Ornamenting an egg and preparing for Easter any pupil is most likely to recollect every nation has its own traditions in particular the Ukrainian one[3].

So to conclude, the formation of patriotism in the Ukrainian society is a priority for the state, and for the education system as a whole. In this regard, the national-patriotic education is an important part of the educational process. That’s why the above mentioned forms of work in English lessons are inherent in national spiritual achievements shaping thereby a general culture of personality. Art works enable to reveal a variety of national culture to schoolchildren in regard to the whole material world encouraging the formation of patriotic feelings.

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