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**THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' SOCIO-CULTURAL COMPETENCE  
THROUGH COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF WORLD AND UZBEK  
LITERATURE IN HIGHER EDUCATION AS AN EDUCATIONAL ISSUE**

**Jumanazarova Umidaxon Rustambek qizi <sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Master's Student, 1st Year

Chirchiq State Pedagogical University

E-mail: [umidaxonjumanazarova02@gmail.com](mailto:umidaxonjumanazarova02@gmail.com)

Phone: +99899 474 75 40

**U.S. Shermatova <sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Scientific Supervisor:

PhD in Pedagogical Sciences, Docent

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*This article analyzes the development of students' socio-cultural competence through the comparative study of world and Uzbek literature in higher education. It explores the essence of a competency-based approach, its significance in the educational process, and its role in global practices. The theoretical foundations of competence, the structural aspects of professional competence, and methods for their formation in the educational process are examined. Additionally, the impact of competency-based approaches in literature teaching methodology on fostering students' creative and critical thinking abilities is analyzed. The article emphasizes that the application of competency-based principles in higher education enables students to acquire not only theoretical knowledge but also practical skills.*

**INTRODUCTION.** In today's rapidly evolving world, competitiveness is required in every field to secure a worthy position. Consequently, professional competency is essential for all specialists, while literature educators must also possess moral excellence. For a literature teacher to earn high regard among students, both qualities must be harmonized. A

literature educator works with human emotions, and it is well known that literature lessons are, in essence, lessons of emotional cultivation. Mere knowledge is insufficient to reach the heart. Furthermore, concepts such as respect, recognition, and reputation cannot be demanded, requested, or purchased; they must be earned through personal qualities, moral maturity, and intellectual depth.

**Competence** (from the Latin *competens* – appropriate, suitable, necessary, qualified, knowledgeable) refers to the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience required for an individual to effectively perform in specific areas of life.

**Competency refers to the possession of competence.** It signifies the harmony between an individual's personal qualities and the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience necessary for effective performance in a particular field.<sup>5</sup>

Competency manifests in an individual's practical capabilities and level of expertise in a specific field. Every specialist possesses a latent potential that can be cultivated and transformed into productive proficiency. Competency, in this sense, refers to the process of converting inherent potential into effective professional performance.

*The term competency* entered the field of education through psychological research. Psychologists define it as a specialist's ability to navigate unconventional situations, adapt communication strategies to unexpected circumstances, employ innovative approaches in professional interactions, efficiently utilize relevant information to complete complex tasks, continuously improve their skills, and systematically enhance their knowledge and expertise.

**Professional competency** refers to the acquisition and proficient application of the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for professional activity. It encompasses not only the mastery of specific knowledge, skills, and personal qualities but also the integration of interdisciplinary knowledge and practical actions relevant to the specialist's field. Furthermore, competence requires the continuous enrichment of professional expertise, the ability to assimilate new information, awareness of critical social demands, and the capacity to seek, process, and effectively apply new knowledge in practice.<sup>6</sup>

According to Q. Husanboyeva and R. Niyozmetova, the level of professional competency is demonstrated in the following situations:

- when facing complex circumstances;

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<sup>5</sup> <https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vikipediya>. Vikipediya. Svobodnaya ensiklopediya.

<sup>6</sup> Husanboyeva Q., Niyozmetova R. Methodology of Teaching Literature. Textbook. – Tashkent: “Innovatsiya-Ziyo”, 2022. – p. 34.

- when performing urgent tasks;
- when effectively utilizing contradictory information.

A specialist with professional competency:

- continuously enhances their knowledge;
- assimilates new information;
- deeply understands contemporary demands;
- seeks out new knowledge;
- processes and effectively applies it in practical activities.

Currently, preparing students to be competent individuals has become one of the primary objectives of the global education system. This is because competency:

- integrates the intellectual and practical aspects of education;
- reflects the indicators that demonstrate how well educational content is assimilated according to standards;
- shows the extent to which an individual's activity and culture encompass one or multiple closely related fields.

Moreover, globalization demands that specialists not only operate within a single country but also be capable of living and working in any part of the world, maintaining competitiveness by being competent in all aspects.<sup>7</sup>

#### Competency in Individual Development and Its Role in Education

An individual's competency consists of specific components that enable them to address life challenges related to daily survival, professional activities, and social integration within a community. Based on this, in our education system, particularly in the methodology of teaching literature, competency is classified into the following types:

**Cognitive Competency** (Independent Learning Competency): Refers to an individual's ability to acquire knowledge through various sources, including those beyond formal educational institutions.

**Social-Civic Competency:** Encompasses an individual's engagement in civic responsibilities, voting, consumer awareness, and other social duties.

**Social-Occupational Competency:** Involves awareness of labor market trends, the ability to analyze employment conditions, assess professional capabilities accurately, and adhere to ethical norms in professional interactions.

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<sup>7</sup> Husanboyeva Q., Niyozmetova R. Methodology of Teaching Literature. Textbook. – Tashkent: “Innovatsiya-Ziyo”, 2022. – p. 35.



**Household Competency:** Includes knowledge of personal and family health, lifestyle, duties, responsibilities, and other domestic affairs.

**Cultural and Recreational Competency:** Relates to the ability to use leisure time effectively and engage in cultural and intellectual self-development.

The modern education system aims to ensure that students acquire these competencies from their early academic years. The process of developing competency involves cultivating independent and critical thinking, the ability to work autonomously, organizational skills, self-regulation, interpersonal effectiveness, foresight in decision-making, and the ability to identify and solve problems by understanding cause-and-effect relationships.

A literature teacher's competency involves identifying aspects of literary works that positively impact students' psychological well-being, foster moral development, and refine emotional sensitivity. Additionally, it requires the ability to tailor these elements to each student during lessons.

In higher education, the concept of competency does not solely focus on theoretical knowledge acquisition but emphasizes its practical application, independent decision-making, and preparedness for professional activities.

A competency-based approach in education is generally founded on the following principles:

**1. Practical Orientation:** The educational content should prepare students for real-life situations and work environments.

**2. Integration:** Encouraging problem-solving by combining knowledge from multiple disciplines.

**3. Individualization:** Taking into account each student's unique characteristics and learning needs.

**4. Competitiveness:** Ensuring that students develop skills and qualifications that align with the demands of the international labor market.

Many developed countries have incorporated competency-based education into their national strategies. Some examples include:

1. United States:

- ✓ Extensive use of the credit-modular system.
- ✓ Students engage in independent projects and research throughout their studies.
- ✓ Practical learning methods, such as Service Learning, are implemented to develop competencies.

2. European Countries:

✓ The Bologna Process has restructured curricula to align with competency-based education.

✓ The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) evaluates students based on an integrated assessment of knowledge, skills, and abilities.

3. South Korea:

✓ Prioritizes technological and creative thinking in education.

✓ Implements STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education to enhance problem-solving abilities.

✓ These global approaches demonstrate the importance of competency-based education in preparing students for a rapidly evolving, competitive job market.

4. Finland:

✓ The education system is designed to foster independent thinking and the development of essential life competencies.

✓ Innovative approaches, such as Phenomenon-Based Learning, are widely used to encourage interdisciplinary connections.

The integration of competency-based education in higher education offers several advantages, including:

- Increased adaptability of students to the labor market;
- Reduction of the gap between academic knowledge and practical application;
- Development of creative and critical thinking skills;
- Strengthened motivation for lifelong learning and self-improvement.

Uzbekistan has been implementing large-scale reforms to integrate competency-based education into its higher education system:

1. *Modular System*: The number of elective courses for students has been expanded.

2. *Practical Orientation*: Strengthening collaboration with industries and enterprises to enhance students' hands-on experience.

3. *Innovative Methods*: Adoption of online and blended learning models to modernize the education process.

The competency-based approach in higher education aims to train students not only to acquire knowledge but also to develop practical skills and independent decision-making abilities, shaping them into well-rounded professionals ready for the global labor market.

Competency-based education principles emphasize the integration of theoretical knowledge with practical skills. The methodology for teaching Russian literature exemplifies these principles as follows:

**1. Practical Orientation Principle:** Teaching should connect theoretical material with real-life applications. A.A. Verbitsky emphasizes the importance of linking literature education with students' professional and practical activities. For example, discussing how literary themes apply to contemporary life.

**2. Problem-Based Learning Principle:** Encouraging independent thinking through the creation of problem-solving situations is crucial. V.V. Davydov proposed that students develop problem-solving skills by analyzing complex scenarios. For instance, discussing moral dilemmas in Dostoevsky's works to enhance ethical reasoning.

**3. Interdisciplinary Integration Principle:** Literature is taught in connection with other subjects, broadening students' worldview and analytical abilities.

**4. Student-Centered Learning Principle:** Education should consider each student's individual needs and abilities. Based on L.S. Vygotsky's "Zone of Proximal Development", this approach fosters creativity and critical thinking through interactive dialogue between students and educators. For example, analyzing psychological states of literary characters.

**5. Development of Critical and Creative Thinking:** Providing students with problem-solving tasks to encourage independent reasoning.

**6. Digital Technologies and Innovative Methods Principle:** Modern educational technologies should make learning interactive and engaging.

The competency-based approach in the teaching of Russian literature cultivates knowledgeable, skillful, creative, and critical-thinking individuals. These principles not only enhance students' theoretical understanding but also develop essential professional competencies required for their future careers.

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