



AESTHETIC PERCEPTION OF NATURE AS AN ELEMENT OF EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

This work is dedicated to the psychology of aesthetic perception and its role in the education of young people. The psycho-emotional processes that occur during the perception of art are examined, as well as how they influence the development of the inner world of young individuals.

KEYWORDS: Aesthetic education, youth, critical thinking, creative abilities, socialization, art, emotional education, cultural values, moral guidelines, artistic perception.

INTRODUCTION

Nature is also an important source of aesthetic experiences. The perception of natural beauty — mountains, rivers, forests, fields, celestial phenomena — develops the ability to feel admiration and gratitude. Aesthetic perception of nature strengthens the connection between humans and the surrounding world, forming ecological responsibility and a commitment to the values of sustainable development.

Often, travel, hiking, and walks in nature are key elements of youth education, as they help not only to develop a sense of beauty but also to improve emotional health, reduce stress levels, and enhance overall well-being. This also contributes to the formation of a deeper and more responsible attitude toward the protection of nature and the environment.

The aesthetic perception of nature is the ability to perceive and evaluate natural phenomena in terms of beauty, harmony, grandeur, and depth. It is an important element in the process of education, helping a person develop emotional sensitivity, establish stable moral and aesthetic guidelines, and deepen their understanding of the connection between humans and the surrounding world. Aesthetic perception of nature not only fosters the development of a sense of beauty but also influences the cultivation of morality, responsibility, and respect for the environment.

Aesthetic perception of nature is the perception of nature as a source of beauty and harmony, which evokes positive emotions, aesthetic pleasure, and inspires reflection. It is not simply the recognition of natural objects and phenomena as subjects of practical significance, but the ability to perceive them as sources of inspiration, beauty, majesty, and purpose. This perception fosters the development of a deeper and more multifaceted relationship with the world and contributes to the formation of the value of nature in a person's consciousness.

Aesthetic perception of nature includes:

- The ability to admire natural phenomena (sunsets, landscapes, stars, flowers, sounds of nature);
- Perception of nature as a harmonious and perfect system;

- Awareness of the interconnection of all natural elements (plants, animals, bodies of water, forests, mountains, etc.);
- Development of emotional responsiveness to changes in nature (seasonal changes, weather phenomena, the growth and death of living beings).

Aesthetic perception of nature is an important part of education, as it shapes not only a person's aesthetic preferences but also essential moral values. Through nature, a person learns to see harmony and interconnectedness in the world, to recognize their role in it, and to understand their responsibility for maintaining ecological balance.

Nature is a source of powerful aesthetic experiences that deeply affect a person's emotional perception. The sight of a beautiful landscape, the sounds of the forest, the smells of flowers, or the sound of rain can evoke feelings of tranquility, joy, inspiration, and awe. These experiences help a person develop empathy, the ability to feel and perceive the world in its diversity and beauty.

Emotional sensitivity to the beauty of nature contributes to the development of positive character traits:

- "Sensitivity" – the ability to sense and understand the mood of nature.
- "Inspiration" – the drive for creative self-expression, which is stimulated by perceiving nature as an inspiring source.
- "Compassion and Mercy" – perceiving nature helps develop empathy not only toward people but also toward living beings, fostering an attitude toward animals and plants as valuable parts of life that should be cared for and protected.

Nature is an unlimited source of beauty that can be perceived and appreciated in various ways. By developing aesthetic perception of nature, a person learns to distinguish what harmony, symmetry, and proportions are, as well as what disrupted harmony looks like. For example, one can show a person different types of landscapes and nature in different seasons (autumn forests, snowy vistas, blooming meadows) and help them notice how the perception of beauty changes with the time of year.

Nature can also serve as an important guide for developing artistic taste, as many famous artists (such as Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot, Isaac Levitan) drew inspiration from landscapes. These works of art, in turn, serve as a kind of model for viewers to evaluate the world around them.

Aesthetic perception of nature is closely connected with the awareness of the value of ecology and the need to protect nature. When a person sees in nature not only a source of beauty but also feels its fragility, uniqueness, and irreplaceability, they come to realize the importance of environmental preservation. Aesthetic perception of nature helps a person develop an attitude toward ecology as a moral responsibility.

- "Care for Nature": Beautiful landscapes and remarkable natural phenomena can, regardless of the individual, awaken a desire to preserve this magnificence. Aesthetic awareness helps perceive nature as something sacred, in need of protection and care. Emotional experiences triggered by the beauty of nature can serve as the foundation for developing ecological responsibility.

- "Awareness of the Interconnection Between Nature and Humans": It is important that the perception of nature includes the awareness that humans are an integral part of nature. This involves fostering a sense of responsibility for the environment, caring for animals and plants, and paying attention to the sustainability of ecosystems.



"Methods of Developing Aesthetic Perception of Nature in Children and Youth"

Aesthetic perception of nature can and should be developed through various activities aimed at introducing the world around us. This is especially important during childhood and adolescence, when a person is actively receiving information and forming the foundations of their views on nature and society.

a) "Educational and Practical Activities"

- "Excursions and Hikes": Walks in forests, mountains, fields, bodies of water, and visits to national parks and nature reserves promote personal interaction with nature, strengthening children's and adolescents' connection to the world around them. Outdoor walks can be organized for the purpose of observing natural phenomena, collecting plants, or studying wildlife, which encourages the development of both aesthetic and scientific interest.

- "Ecological Projects": Organizing school ecological projects, such as tree planting, participating in campaigns to clean forests or riverbanks, helps children and adolescents not only feel like a part of nature but also fosters a sense of responsibility for its preservation.

b) "Artistic Forms of Work"

- "Creativity": Drawing, photography, music, and literature are all forms through which children can express their impressions of nature. Both direct artistic activities (such as landscape painting) and creating poems or stories about nature are important. This contributes to the development of aesthetic taste and allows children to view nature as a source of inspiration.

- "Reading Literature About Nature": Books about nature, especially literary works dedicated to nature (such as the works of Ivan Turgenev, Anatoly Prokopyev, or John Muir), not only foster aesthetic perception but also deepen the understanding of the importance of human relationships with nature. These works teach attentiveness, respect, and care for the world around us.

c) "Meditation and Relaxation in Nature"

Relaxation techniques, meditation, or simply quiet contemplation of nature can be used to develop the ability to be attentive to the surrounding world. Immersing oneself in the sounds of nature (rainfall, rustling leaves, birdsong) helps children and adults alike learn to be present in the moment, perceiving nature in all its richness and beauty.

CONCLUSION

Aesthetic perception of nature plays an essential role in the upbringing of a person, especially in the process of forming a harmonious, morally responsible individual. It helps develop not only taste and sensitivity to beauty but also crucial moral values, such as care for nature, respect for life, and responsibility for preserving the environment. Perceiving nature as a source of aesthetic enjoyment fosters a deep and respectful attitude toward life and the world around us, which is a key element in raising a well-rounded and conscious individual.

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