

**OPEN ACCESS**

SUBMITTED 23 March 2025

ACCEPTED 19 April 2025

PUBLISHED 21 May 2025

VOLUME Vol.05 Issue05 2025

COPYRIGHT

© 2025 Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 License.

The Role of Oral Folk Art in Developing Speech in Young Children (Examining the Genres of Tongue Twisters and Riddles)

Gafforjon Ruzmatovich Rahmanov

Associate Professor at Kokand University, PhD in Philological Sciences, Uzbekistan

Abstract: This article provides a methodological approach to the importance of tongue twisters and riddles—genres of oral folk art—in developing speech in young children. It also offers methodological recommendations to encourage active speaking, stimulate logical thinking, and enhance creative abilities in children.

Keywords: Tongue twister, riddle, speech skills, logical thinking, creative ability, communicative aspects, traditional folklore, proper language use, cultural heritage, national values.

Introduction: A tongue twister is a short, challenging phrase or poem designed to practice quick and accurate pronunciation of sounds in oral speech. It is typically based on the repetition of similar or identical sounds.

The Early Childhood Period

Early childhood is a critical phase of rapid development in speech, cognitive, and social aspects. Games, poems, tongue twisters, and riddles play a significant role in shaping speech skills during this period. Tongue twisters and riddles are effective tools for enriching children's vocabulary, improving listening and pronunciation abilities, strengthening memory, and enhancing logical thinking.

Early childhood is the most crucial stage in a child's development, encompassing speech, cognitive, psychomotor, and socio-emotional growth. Speech therapy, didactic games, poetic texts, tongue twisters, and riddles from folklore hold particular importance in forming speech abilities during this period. Tongue twisters and

riddles not only develop children's speech skills but also improve their logical thinking, creativity, and communication abilities. These traditional folklore samples teach children not only proper language use but also cultural heritage and national values.

Tongue Twisters

A tongue twister is a short, challenging phrase or poem intended to practice fast and accurate sound pronunciation in oral speech. It is usually based on the repetition of similar or identical sounds.

Objectives of Tongue Twisters:

1. Improving language use – Helps speak more clearly and fluently.
2. Language exercises – Especially beneficial for children and foreign language learners.
3. Skill enhancement – A tool for perfecting pronunciation among radio and theater actors, as well as announcers.
4. Entertainment – Speech development in a playful form.

Tongue twisters are an excellent tool for improving speech in both children and adults, enhancing language proficiency.

How Tongue Twisters Help Develop Speech Skills in Children:

- Quick and accurate pronunciation – Repeating difficult words and sounds improves articulation.
- Enhancing auditory attention – Listening to and repeating tongue twisters develops phonemic hearing.
- Strengthening memory and retention – Short, rhyming texts make it easier for children to memorize.

Examples of Tongue Twisters in Uzbek:

- "Chumchuq churq etdi, chuv etdi" (The sparrow chirped, flew away).
- "Oq qopqoqqa ko'k qopqoq, ko'k qopqoqqa oq qopqoq" (A white lid on a blue lid, a blue lid on a white lid).
- "Chorvador chorva chorlab, chorvaxonaga kiribdi" (The shepherd herded the cattle into the barn).

Riddles in Oral Folk Art

Among the genres of oral folk art, riddles hold a special place. They test people's intellect, thinking, and observational skills, playing a significant role in child upbringing and cultural life since ancient times.

A riddle is a form of oral art where an object or phenomenon is deliberately concealed through symbols, comparisons, and metaphors, challenging the listener to guess it. It is usually rhythmic and develops imaginative thinking through metaphors, allegories,

and analogies.

Structure of Riddles:

1. Descriptive part – The object or phenomenon is described indirectly through comparisons.
2. Solution or answer – The name of the object matching the given description.

Riddles are products of folk wisdom, reflecting people's observations of nature, life, tools, wildlife, and cosmic phenomena. Thus, they can be considered expressions of folk philosophy.

Functions of Riddles:

- Educational-philosophical – Develops children's thinking and mental activity.
- Historical-cultural – Reflects the worldview, traditions, and lifestyle of a people.
- Aesthetic – Shapes artistic taste through figurative expression.

Example of a Riddle:

"It has no body but leaves a trace, it moves without walking, it floats."

Answer: A boat.

This riddle depicts a boat, showcasing human perception of natural phenomena and the desire to express them figuratively.

How Riddles Develop Logical Thinking in Children:

- Conceptual and logical thinking – Solving riddles teaches children to compare the characteristics of objects.
- Vocabulary expansion – Understanding new terms and metaphors enriches language.
- Creative thinking and imagination – Figurative descriptions in riddles stimulate children's imagination.

Riddles are not just games but a part of a people's spiritual and educational heritage. Behind them lie wisdom, thought, artistry, and life experience. Even today, teachers, educators, and folklorists widely use riddles. Therefore, studying, promoting, and creating new riddles remains a relevant task.

Examples of Riddles:

Nature and Wildlife:

1. "Long itself, no tongue, but produces much sound from its mouth."
☞ Answer: Wind.
2. "In the forest, it goes 'woo-woo,' at night it howls."
☞ Answer: Wolf.
3. "It swims in the river, not a fish; a person rides it, not a boat."

☞ Answer: Canoe.

Pedagogical Significance." Tashkent, 2015.

Household Items:

1. "Head black, inside white, the more you read, the more you know."

☞ Answer: Book.

2. "Four legs, flat back, everyone sits on it."

☞ Answer: Chair.

Fruits and Food:

1. "Not in winter, but in summer, dressed in yellow, sweet as sugar."

☞ Answer: Melon.

2. "Green outside, red inside, with black seeds within."

☞ Answer: Watermelon.

CONCLUSION

In summary, tongue twisters and riddles are engaging and effective methods for developing speech, cognitive, and social skills in young children. They encourage active communication, enhance logical thinking, and foster creativity. Parents and educators can enrich children's speech by incorporating these folklore genres into daily interactions.

Tongue twisters and riddles are unique tools for the comprehensive development of children's speech, cognitive, and social abilities. To use them effectively, the following recommendations should be followed:

1. Regular practice – Dedicate 5-10 minutes daily to tongue twisters and riddles.
2. Individual approach – Select materials appropriate for the child's age and speech level.
3. Engagement – Motivate children through games and interesting tasks.

Parents, educators, and speech therapists can combine these traditional methods with modern educational technologies to further enhance children's speech development.

REFERENCES

Boltayeva, N. "Speech Development in Young Children." Tashkent, 2001.

Boltayeva, N. "Early Childhood Pedagogy." Tashkent, 2003.

Kodirova, F. "Methods of Developing Children's Speech." Tashkent, 2004.

Kodirova, F. "Speech Therapy for Children." Tashkent, 2005.

Kholmirzaeva, D. "Children's Folklore and Speech Development." Tashkent, 2011.

Kholmirzaeva, D. "Uzbek Children's Folklore and Its