



## **Specifying the Importance of Thought for Education Considering a Saying**

Ali YILDIZ<sup>1</sup>

### **Keywords**

Thinking,  
The Importance of  
thinking,  
Education,  
The Habit of  
thinking, Obey and  
find rest and ease.

### **Abstract**

Considering the saying "Obey and find rest and ease", the purpose of the study is to determine the importance and need of thinking for education. This study is a document analysis. Of all the students studying in different educational institutions like pre-school, elementary school, secondary school, and high school, scientists, researchers-academics, great artists, and philosophers will be trained and thus they must not hear the saying "Obey and find rest and ease". Because this saying adopts and promotes a sort of understanding which does not support thinking-inquiry or is even opposed to this kind of understanding, it is blatantly obvious that it will sabotage or prevent the purpose and the learning outcomes of basic/compulsory education. It is important for rulers to realize that it will not be possible to create a society which gives importance to freedom of belief and thought, has environmental awareness, depends on democracy, is sensitive and dynamic with the individuals who live according to the understanding of "Obey and find rest and ease". The citizen having the understanding of "Obey and find rest and ease" may look like somebody who is not a trouble-maker, is easy going and obedient and good. However, that citizen is always a burden difficult to carry for his country. Anybody or any institutions do not derive any benefits from an individual who does not think of finding solutions to his troubles-problems. Based on some studies, it might be deduced that teachers should include activities and implementations which will make students think-question, use their intelligence-skill, and develop them in their lessons and in addition, teachers should adequately use the teaching methods and techniques which support their activities and implementations included in their lesson.

### **Article History**

Received  
18 Oct, 2018  
Accepted  
26 Nov, 2018

<sup>1</sup> Corresponding Author. ORCID: 0000-0001-6241-2316. Assoc. Prof., Atatürk University, Kazım Karabekir Education Faculty, Department of Basic Education, ayildiz@atauni.edu.tr

## 1. Introduction

Thought is described as a cognitive process where thinking, remembering, doubting, feeling, wanting, understanding, and comprehending occur and inferences, comparisons, reasoning, analysing, synthesising, and connections are made (Cevizci, 2000: 103-104). Thinking is a cognitive activity which only belongs to human beings among all living beings. Introduction of thought which occurs as a cognitive product as a result of thinking is not a task or competence specific to only scientists or philosophers. It is required that all individuals must always think and get into the habit of thinking and questioning any subject under any circumstances.

We hear different expressions or statements used in different daily dialogues in our everyday life. One of the most common statements is the saying "Obey and find rest and ease". It is a saying which is frequently said by the married men and women to other married couples or to the men, girls, or women who are going to get married or by the men who did their military service to the others with the intention of giving advice. According to the researcher who worked as a district governor and deputy governor in many districts and cities in Anatolia, "Obey and find rest and ease" is a statement of police officers (Yaman, 2013). As the saying has been used by many people, it reveals that it is respected and considered important. In fact, it can be stated that most of the individuals knowingly or unknowingly act according to this saying in every stage of life. It is believed that individuals who obey their parents at home, directors at school, teachers in the classroom, imam in the mosque, priests in the church, the institution or the person that rules the country, that is, the authority (council, committee, president, king, sultan and etc.) live at ease. The saying "Obey and find rest and ease" describes or reminds of an individual who does not usually think over and question the decisions made, judgments given, results presented, and projects developed and planned.

If the majority of the individuals who compose the society act according to the conception of "Obey and find rest and ease", it is rather difficult to train good scientists, good researchers-academics, great artists and philosophers. An individual who constantly obeys may not feel the need to approach with suspicion, think, and question. Because the intelligent individuals who either underutilize their intelligence or do not use it adequately can fail to produce great-permanent works of art. If an individual wants to use his intelligence effectively, he must have the habit of thinking. The habit of thinking is sometimes not enough, thus, there must be a reason which can motivate the people or provoke their productivity positively so that great works that cause excitement, permanent works of art, or products are produced. Disagreeing with the authority/management, thinking that their freedom is restrained, and being unjustly treated about a human or divine love or about any topic may be one of those reasons.

In other words, even a philosopher, a researcher, a scientist, and an artist are very intelligent or talented; they may need a motivating, triggering-feeding factor to reveal the whole real creative potential inherent in them and to soul a product to make the product or work of art eternal and perfect. It is possible to encounter many examples which justify this opinion in history. It is known that Nazım Hikmet Ran wrote his best poems during the years when he was in prison, his works were banned, he was in love passionately, or he was homesick (Hikmet Ran, 2007; Nureddin, 2018) and this proves the claim that is stated. The claim suggested could be supported with another fact experienced in Anatolia. Pir Sultan Abdal of Banaz, the great folk poet was pressurized and distressed by Deli Hızır Paşa, the governor of Sivas (16th century) and who can claim that all these troubles (Ana Britannica, 1990) experienced by the folk poet did not have any effect on the development of some of his unforgettable poems? A citation from the history of science can make an idea much stronger and more permanent. Although Galileo (1564-1642) was put under house arrest and he could not see anything due to cataract, he completed his last and the most important book with the help of his secretary and can we say that Galileo's exposure to obstruction and pressure of the church due to his ideas, works, and works of art, his trial by the Inquisition and being under house arrest by the Pope Urban VIII (Robinson, 2014: 39; James, 2015: 10) do not have any effects on the publication of his book in Leiden, Netherlands in 1638?

### **The Purpose of Study**

Considering the saying "Obey and find rest and ease", the purpose of the study is to determine the importance and need of thinking for education.

### **2. Method**

This study is a document analysis. The data of the study was obtained via descriptive analysis of the scientific documents like books, newspapers, and paper presented and published articles related to the subject.

### **3. Findings**

What human beings learn at the earliest and most permanently is their mother tongue (Ranci re, 2015: 13-16). Naturally, family is the first place where the individuals acquire their native language and the first learning occurs. Then comes the pre-school, elementary school, secondary school, and high school, and university where formal training is given. Of all the students studying in different educational institutions like pre-school, elementary school, secondary school, and high school, scientists, researchers-academicians, great artists, and philosophers will be trained and thus they must not hear the saying "Obey and find rest and ease". Because this saying adopts and promotes a sort of understanding which does not support thinking-inquiry or even opposes to this kind of understanding, it is blatantly obvious that it will sabotage or prevent the purpose and the learning outcomes of basic/compulsory education.

The family is important because it is the main unit where the first learning occurs. What is more important for a farmer than rain in a dry season is that it must rain just at the right time when it is most needed. The periods when the child asks questions must be paid attention because he is curious and wants to learn and thus his questions must not be left unanswered or his questions must not be slurred over with such responses as the storks brought you here. It can be stated that the response the storks brought you here is said without thinking and it does not offer any benefits to anyone but numberless disadvantages. Parents can explain their children that all living organisms reproduce in suitable environments and time by using a scientific and clear expressions and supporting them with appropriate and clear examples. It was not realized at a desired level in the past but today it must not be ignored that it is a really important need to be actualized.

Richard Feynman (1918-1988), the winner of Nobel Prize for physics (1965) and one of the greatest physicists of the 21st century, suggested a three-step algorithm for the solution of the individuals' problems, and troubles. Feynman clearly defined his algorithm. The Feynman problem solving algorithm consists of the following steps: First, write down the problem, second, think real hard, and third, write down the solution (answer) (Emren, 2017: 79-80). The first step, write down the problem, suggested by the Feynman's algorithm means to get ready to think. Moreover, the second step which says think real hard demonstrates that he highlights thinking and questioning. Suppose that the individuals fulfilled the first two conditions suggested by Feynman but they could not offer a solution for their problems, that is, the third step could not be carried out. In this case, the individuals do not let their problems become bigger or more complicated. But how? Because they know the problems which they really think hard, they do not immediately accept the suggestions which will not be solutions for their problems as they have understood what will be a good solution or what won't be a solution, that is, they can discern between the suggestions that offer good solutions or not.

Because Socrates asked questions constantly to people he encountered and sometimes discussed with them, it was found annoying, so one day he was accused because of this (399 BC ). The person who accused him was Meletos and he claimed that Socrates replaced the Greek gods with the new gods and he also provoked the Athenian youth against the authority (Warburton, 2017: 19). A seventy-year old Socrates did not behave willingly and did not make an effort to defend himself during this process (Warburton, 2017: 20). Of the grand jury composed of 501 citizens, Socrates was found guilty by more than half of the grand jury and he was sentenced to death by drinking hemlock poison at the age of 71 (Yıldırım, 2011: 28; Warburton, 2017: 20). It can be difficult to stand people acting like Socrates in the societies where majority of the individuals are not used to be asked questions and seeking answers. However, the existence of individuals who think, ask and question must not be considered as annoying but as necessity and even compulsory so that the society is independent in every aspect (scientific, cultural, economic, political, and military) and also the self-sufficient individuals compose the majority of the society.

It has recently been attached importance and wanted to have students acquire scientific process skills in the science courses within the basic framework. Can a student do observation/ develop hypothesis/ make classification/ make a deduction/ decide how to measure a thing with which tool/ design an experiment without thinking? In brief, it is quite difficult for the students who do not have thinking and inquiry-questioning habits to acquire and implement scientific process skills. It is required that students must engage in activities by using their intelligence and they must make it a habit.

It is stated that great thinkers, philosophers and geniuses usually took long walks at certain hours of the day and continued their walks regularly every day at the same time (Emren, 2017: 64). In fact, they thought during these walking hours. Walking times are the hours when they concentrate on the issues, problems, troubles, principles, theories, laws, situations, and events that they work on or think over, the cognitive activities have peaked, and the algorithms have been revealed. This identification based on the history of science determines that it is rather difficult to predict when, under which condition, and environment the thinkers will introduce useful, important, and brilliant ideas and moreover, it exhibits that thinking is not a cognitive activity which is done while sitting at a table.

#### **4. Results and Suggestions**

It is important for rulers and the governments to realize that it will not be possible to create a society which gives importance to freedom of belief and thought, has environmental awareness, depends on democracy, is sensitive and dynamic with the individuals who live according to the understanding of "Obey and find rest and ease". The citizen having the perception of "Obey and find rest and ease" may look like somebody who is not a trouble-maker, is easy going and obedient and good. However, that citizen is always a burden for his country. Anyone or any institutions do not derive any benefits from an individual who does not think of finding solutions to his troubles or problems. How many of the individuals who behave according to the saying have discussed or thought over the problems of the city, environment or the country where they themselves, their children, and wives live? Apart from thinking over, majority of them even do not think of them, do not show any interest; and they expect and want the present government/ authority to solve all their and family's problems .

Because the individuals who behave according to the saying "Obey and find rest and ease" generally do not have the habits of questioning, opposing, objecting, and thinking at a sufficient level, they may look like the people who the congregations, sects, organized crime and terrorist groups, and gangs want their participation in them. In other words, when compared to the individuals who think, ask and question, it is much easier for the individuals who behave according to the saying "Obey and find rest and ease" to join such illegal organizations, become a member of them, and get involved in their activities.

Based on some studies (Rancière, 2015: 13-16; Yıldız, 2016a; Yıldız, 2016b), it can be deduced that teachers must include activities which will enable students to think and question, use their intelligence and abilities, and develop them and also they must adequately use the teaching methods and techniques which support their activities and implementations. Considering that the most permanent learning occurs in the years when native language is learned, pre-school, elementary school, and secondary school periods are important. It is assumed that learning will diminish as we move away from the period when the native language is learned. It is required that curricula designed for every level must include qualities which will enable the learners to think, question, inquire, and explore. As stated in a document (Rancière, 2015), an intelligence must not need another intelligence. The use of intelligence, thinking, and questioning by the individuals must be regarded as an important reason for their existence as an individual.

Your spouse, child, friend, partner, employee, student or someone you like or care can tell and talk about his/her problems or what s/he lives or even act exaggeratedly to make us understand them exactly or be impressed with them. At that moment, be quiet, listen to him/her, and think; you will understand that the reality is comparatively different.

The sayings “The person who does not inquire is ignorant and the person who does not allow inquiry is cruel.” and “Spare time for thinking, your courage boosts, and take stable steps.” determine and emphasise the importance of thinking for people. Acting and taking steps and speaking without thinking is dangerous and harmful because they may lead to making a lot of big mistakes. If you want to be a person who is not hated or who is loved, think. Those who speak without thinking can hurt people. It is required that we must not speak a lot but less, and we must think even speaking less.

## References

- Ana Britannica. (1990). Pir Sultan Abdal. Ana Britannica Genel Kültür Ansiklopedisi, Cilt 17, s. 622. İstanbul: Ana Yayıncılık A. Ş. ve Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. işbirliği ile yayınlanmıştır.
- Cevizci, A. (2000). Felsefe Terimleri Sözlüğü. İstanbul: Paradigma Yayınları.
- Emren, T. (2017). Dâhilerin Yaşamı. Popular Science Türkiye Dergisi, 68, 61-81.
- Hikmet Ran, N. (2007). Son Şiirleri (1959-1963), YKY'de 8.bs. İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Yayınları.
- James, I. (2015). Remarkable Physicists from Galileo to Yukawa. Çev.:Sibel Erduman, 2. bs. İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Kültür Yayınları.
- Nureddin, V. (2018). Bu Dünyadan Nazım Geçti. İstanbul: Kırmızı Kedi Yayınevi.
- Rancière, J. (2015). Cahil Hoca. Çev.: Savaş Kılıç. İstanbul: Metis Yayınları.
- Robinson, A. (2014). The Scientists-An Epicof Discovery. Çev.: Yelda Türedi. İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Yayınları.

- Warburton, N. (2017). A Little History of Philosophy. 29. bs, Çev.:Güçlü Ateşoğlu. İstanbul: Alfa Basım Yayım Dağıtım San. ve Tic. Ltd. Şti.
- Yaman, E (2013). Not defterimden derlenmiş veciz sözlerden bir demet. Mersin Tercüman Gazetesi, 21.05.2013 tarih ve 495 sayılı nüshası.
- Yıldırım, C. (2011). Bilim Tarihi, 14. bs. İstanbul: Remzi Kitabevi.
- Yıldız, A. (2016a). İlkokulda öğrenme amaçlı yazma etkinliklerinin akademik başarıya etkisinin tartışılması. Turkish Studies, 11 (14 Summer), 861-870. doi:10.7827/TurkishStudies.9665.
- Yıldız, A. (2016b). Öğretmen adaylarının Coulomb yasasını anlama düzeylerinin tartışılması. 4. Uluslararası eğitim programları ve öğretim kongresi, Tam metin bildiri kitabı, 1024-1029, 27-30 Ekim, Antalya, Türkiye.

© Copyright of Journal of Current Researches on Social Science is the property of Strategic Research Academy and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.