

METHOD OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract: This article explores various methods of teaching foreign languages, analyzing their principles, advantages, and limitations. It reviews traditional approaches such as the Grammar-Translation and Audiolingual Methods, as well as modern methodologies like Communicative Language Teaching, the Direct Method, and Task-Based Learning. The role of technology in enhancing language education is also discussed. The paper emphasizes the importance of adopting a flexible, student-centered approach that integrates multiple techniques to address the diverse needs of learners and enhance communicative competence. By understanding these methods, educators can make informed decisions to create effective and engaging language learning experiences.

Key words: Foreign language teaching, grammar-translation method, communicative approach, direct method, task-based learning, language acquisition, language pedagogy, educational technology, student-centered learning.

Introduction. Language is one of the most essential means of communication, and learning a foreign language has become increasingly important in today's interconnected world. Mastering a new language not only enhances cognitive abilities but also opens up various educational and career opportunities. However, teaching a foreign language requires a well-structured approach that caters to the diverse needs of learners. Different methodologies have been developed over time, each with its own strengths and weaknesses. The choice of teaching method depends on factors such as learners' age, proficiency level, and learning goals. This article explores various methods of teaching foreign languages, highlighting their advantages and limitations. By understanding these approaches, educators can select the most suitable techniques to enhance language acquisition and communication skills among students.

Traditional Methods: Traditional methods of language teaching focus on grammar and translation. The Grammar-Translation Method (GTM) is one of the oldest approaches, emphasizing learning rules and vocabulary through direct translations between the native and target languages. This method is useful for developing reading and writing skills, as it provides a strong grammatical foundation. However, it may not effectively enhance speaking and listening abilities, as students primarily focus on written exercises rather than real-life communication. Another traditional method is the Audiolingual Method, which is based on behaviorist theories. It emphasizes repetition, drills, and memorization of sentence patterns. Students practice structured dialogues and mimicry exercises, which help in developing pronunciation and fluency. While this approach can be beneficial for beginners, it may lack creativity and spontaneity in language use, making it less effective for higher-level proficiency.

Communicative Approach: The Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) method prioritizes interaction and real-life communication. It encourages students to practice speaking and listening in natural contexts, making the learning process more engaging and practical. Role-playing, group discussions, and problem-solving activities are common techniques used in this approach. The primary goal of CLT is to enable students to use the language effectively in real-world situations, rather than just mastering grammatical structures. A major advantage of the communicative approach is that it enhances students' confidence and fluency in using the target language. However, it requires a well-structured curriculum and skilled instructors who can create an interactive and student-centered learning environment. Additionally, the lack of emphasis on formal grammar instruction can sometimes lead to errors that persist if not addressed properly.

Direct Method: The Direct Method involves teaching a foreign language without using the learner's native language. Instead, instructors rely on demonstrations, visual aids, and immersion techniques to teach vocabulary and grammar in context. This method helps students think in the target language rather than translating from their native language, leading to greater fluency and spontaneity in communication. One of the strengths of the Direct Method is its focus on oral proficiency. Students engage in frequent speaking activities, improving their pronunciation and listening skills. However, this method requires experienced teachers who can effectively convey meaning without translation. It may also be challenging for beginners who need additional support in understanding complex grammatical concepts.

Task-Based Learning: Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) is an innovative approach that focuses on using language as a tool to complete meaningful tasks. This method allows learners to develop language skills naturally by engaging in activities such as storytelling, problem-solving, and project-based learning. It enhances both communicative competence and critical thinking by encouraging students to use the target language in practical scenarios. TBLT promotes active learning and student engagement, making language acquisition more enjoyable and effective. However, it requires well-designed tasks that align with students' proficiency levels and learning goals. Additionally, teachers must provide adequate support and feedback to ensure that students develop accurate and coherent language skills.

Technology and Language Teaching: With the advancement of technology, modern language teaching has incorporated various digital tools to enhance learning. Online platforms, language learning apps, virtual classrooms, and multimedia resources provide students with immersive and interactive experiences. Technology allows for self-paced learning, personalized instruction, and increased exposure to authentic language materials, such as podcasts, videos, and online discussions. Blended learning, which combines traditional classroom instruction with digital resources, has become increasingly popular in foreign language education. It offers flexibility and accessibility, enabling students to practice language skills beyond the classroom. However, the successful integration of technology in language teaching requires careful planning, reliable digital tools, and proper guidance from educators.

Conclusion:

The effectiveness of a foreign language teaching method depends on learners' needs, objectives, and learning environments. A combination of different approaches often yields the best results. By integrating communicative, direct, and task-based methods, educators can create an engaging and effective language learning experience for students. Additionally, leveraging technology can

further enhance language acquisition by providing interactive and immersive learning opportunities. Ultimately, successful language teaching requires adaptability, creativity, and a student-centered approach. Teachers should continuously assess their students' progress, adjust their teaching strategies accordingly, and encourage active participation to ensure meaningful and effective language learning.

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