



Language Teaching: Principles, Methods and Approaches

Dr.Villuri Uma Maheswara Rao*

Lecturer in English, APMS Government Jr. College, Anakapalle, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Corresponding author(s):

Dr.Villuri Uma Maheswara Rao, Lecturer in English, APMS Government Jr. College, Anakapalle, Andhra Pradesh, India.

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Abstract

Teaching is an art. A teacher cannot survive or impress his students without the command over language teaching. It is our language that makes us different from others. The languages learnt by us throughout our life are interlinked whether it is our mother-tongue or a foreign language. In these days of advance technology English becomes a universal language. We can't survive without it at any stage of life whether it is studies, job or business. Language learning and teaching is a complex package of issues. The present paper gives a description of various methods, Principles and approaches which are used in teaching English in India in various colleges and universities. These principles, methods and approaches which will be discussed in more detail in this paper are relevant. By considering these methods and approaches various teachers will be able to make their language teaching more effective and effortless.

Keywords: Language, Linguistic Principles, Methods and Approaches of language Teaching.

1. Introduction

Language is one of the unique tenure of men. It is language which makes a man good or bad. Language distinguishes a man from an animal. It is the language which occupies the heart of

others. With the same language he can lose his dignity and degrade himself in the society. A speaker who has a good command over language can attract a good number of audiences. Ben Jonson says, "Language most shows a man, speak that may see thee." Language is one of the most important and characteristic forms of human behaviour. Language differences may have consequences, because concepts in one language may be understood differently in another language. In India there are variety of languages and religions. Every religion has its own phonetics sounds. Therefore, English is used as 'lingua-franca' in India. Also, the importance of English as an International language is increasing hurriedly in the nation. Hence, the teaching methods and the approach towards English language are most important in teaching-learning process. To understand the importance of language, it is necessary to understand the various methods and approaches of teaching English.

2. Linguistic Principles

- a) Language is learnt
- b) Language is unique
- c) Language is a system
- d) Language is a skill subject
- e) Language is for communication
- f) Language is ever changing
- g) Language is a system of symbols

3. Methods of English Language Teaching

"A method determines what and how much is taught, the order in which it is taught, how the meaning and form are conveyed and what is done to make the use of the language unconscious." The method of teaching is very important during the process of teaching-learning. Selection of good method proceeds to the success of teacher and student.

1. Translation Method.
2. Direct Method.
3. Audio- lingual Method
4. Bilingual method

4. Translation Method

It is also known as the grammar-translation method. Translation method means teaching the target language by translating it in to mother tongue may be in Hindi or Panjabi. The main purpose of the method is that the foreign language can be best taught or learnt through translation.

4.1. Main features of Translation Method

- 1) It is very successful in present day classrooms.
- 2) It is very reliable for giving the students practice of reading with understanding.
- 3) The method is less time consuming.
- 4) Teaching of a foreign language through translation is easy, quick and economical.
- 5) The fundamental principle of proceeding from known to unknown is followed throughout.
- 6) The knowing of rules helps the learners to avoid any type of mistakes.
- 7) It stresses on Reading. It does not give much importance to teaching oral-aural skills like listening and speaking.
- 8) The learners are able to learn many items of English by comparison with mother tongue. That makes learning more clear and firm.

Grammar translation method is still popular amongst teachers. It is easy to follow and hence can be used by any teacher who is not good in spoken English.

5. Direct Method

It is a method of teaching a foreign language especially a modern language through conversation, discussion and reading.

Principles of Direct Method

- a) Direct association between thought and words
- b) Oral practice
- c) Functional Grammar
- d) Inhibition of Mother Tongue
- e) Sentence as the unit of speech
- f) Limited Vocabulary
- g) It makes teaching of English easy and pleasant

6. Audio-lingual Method

This method is also known as 'Army-Method' as it is developed during Second World War, when the American Army personnel were taught foreign language, using this method.

- 1) Students were army persons and they were selected carefully.
- 2) Students are high motivation.
- 3) Teachers are advised to deliver small classes.
- 4) Teacher must be expert in foreign language.
- 5) Command over the mother tongue of students and the foreign language, is important for the concerned teacher.
- 6) Multiple teaching aids are used.
- 7) Teaching of spoken language more efficiently.
- 8) The culture of mother tongue and foreign language should be taught in the form of comparison.

The Main features of Audio-lingual Method

- a) Impressions and memorization
- b) Controlled conversational practice at the initial stage.
- c) Mother-tongue is used for explaining structural peculiarities.
- d) Inductive teaching of grammar and using model sentences.
- e) Use of lectures, adaptation and conference.

7. The Bilingual Method

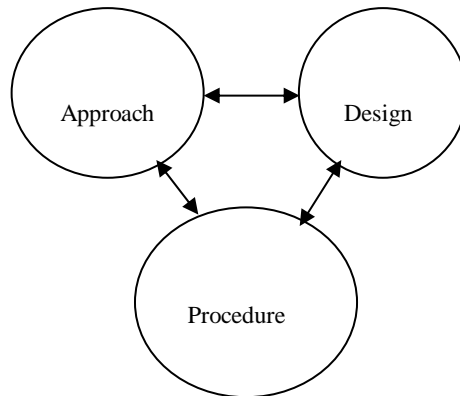
Bilingual method means a method where two language i.e. the mother tongue and the target language are used. The method is based on the similarities and differences which exist between the two languages.

Main features of Bilingual Method

- a) It helps in giving proper training for different skills.
- b) It helps in developing fluency in spoken language.
- c) Meaning and concepts are clearer.
- d) Judicious use of mother tongue helps in teaching English better.

8. Approaches of English Language Teaching

Approach is not method of teaching. It is only an Approach which quickens the process of learning a language. 'A method tells us a way to teach, while an Approach prescribes what to teach.' Approach, Design and Procedures are the main aspects of any language teaching.



There are main three approaches in Teaching English.

- 1) **Structural Approach:** It is based on a belief that in the learning a foreign language, mastery of structure is more important than the acquisition of vocabulary. The different arrangements in one accepted style or the other is called a structure. Approaching English on the basis of selected structures is called Structural Approach. In it the emphasizes one the acquisition of different skills. In it the use of mother tongue is allowed at the initial stages and that too for explaining a situation when some sentences pattern is to be practised.

Principles of Structural Approach

- 1) Importance of speech
- 2) Formation of language habits
- 3) Pupil's activity
- 4) Mastery of structures
- 5) Teaching one item of language at a time
- 6) Meaningful situations

Main Features of Structural Approach

- a) Based on scientific technique
- b) To lay the foundation of English.
- c) To correlate the grammar and composition with the reading lesson
- d) To teach the four fundamental skills
- e) Emphasis on the formal grammar.

2) Communicative Approach: The chief function of language teaching is communication. Efficiency in language is basis for effective communication. A person has some thing in mind and he wants to communicate to others. It is possible if he knows spoken language. Verbal communication is possible when both the parties- the giver and the receiver are physically present near each other.

The Main Features of Communicative Approach

The main features of approach are as below:

- 1) Giving meaning is the most important aspect.
- 2) Dialogues are based on communication skills.
- 3) These are normally understood not to be memorized.
- 4) Giving concepts of context are very basic.
- 5) Language learning is learning to speak and follows.
- 6) Effective skills in speech to be the aim of a child.
- 7) Drilling may be used but with care and caution.
- 8) Pronunciation should be easy to understand.
- 9) Device according to age and interest are welcome.
- 10) Mother tongue may be used where necessary.
- 11) Translation also can be done, if needed and useful.
- 12) Competence in speech means ability to use language.
- 13) Fluent, correct language is the first aim, accuracy too.
- 14) The content, function, meaning determine sequence.
- 15) Interest, motivation etc depends on ideas and works.

Communicative language teaching is the best considered approach that reflects a communicative view of language and language learning and that can be used to support wide varieties of classroom procedure.

The Main Principles of Communicative Approach

- 1) Learner learns a language through using it to communicate.
- 2) Authentic and meaningful communication should be the goal of classroom activities.
- 3) Fluency is an important dimension of communication.
- 4) Communication involves the integration of different language skills.
- 5) Learning is a process of creative construction and involves trial and error.

3) Situation Approach: This approach tries to create real circumstances. This basically tries to teach English as the child learns his own mother-tongue. The main viewpoints of mother-tongue learning are:

- 1) Every items of mother-tongue is to be learnt in real situation.
- 2) Whatever the child understands and expresses is connected with his own life.
- 3) The situation in which the child learns the mother-tongue is repeated again and again.

From these points of view, it can be said that English can be taught as secondary language, through the links between new words and real situations. The problem is to generate real circumstances in the classroom. This is a practical problem, not a theoretical one. The situation approach simply tries to get to the bottom of this practical problem. It indicates how a teacher should generate real circumstances in the classroom.

9. Main Characteristics

The main characteristics of this approach are as below:

- 1) The teacher initiates new words suddenly in the class.
- 2) Many opportunities are presented to learners to correlate the meaning of new words with related situation.
- 3) Proper situations are created through appropriate materials.
- 4) Constant repetition is stressed.
- 5) Several examples are used in a short period.

- 6) The teacher puts a lot of questions about the created situation and he answers them.
- 7) The other important thing is revision.
- 8) The Teacher is continuous in its action.
- 9) Teacher gives continuous statements about his activities, asks questions and answers himself.

The situational approach is very important in the teaching. Teacher must have reading innovation, be fast to see, where there is comprehension and where there is need for review. He must himself be confident in the language, he is teaching. The situational approach gives stress on learning through hearing. It tracks the principle of variety and cleanness. It helps the student in learning Second Language.

10. Conclusion

Language is the only way to describe your inner ways. Learning to teach a foreign language is a lifetime commitment. In India there are variety of languages and religions. Ever religion has its own phonetics sounds. The importance of English as an International language is increasing hurriedly in the nation. Hence, the teaching methods and the approach towards English language are most important in teaching-learning process. With the help of above said methods, principles and approaches one can increased the impression and smoothness of the language. If these methods and approaches are to be used by the teacher then he can easily change the level of its class. Without this language teaching is not an easy task.

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Conflict of Interest/Competing Interests

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Data Availability

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