

Methods and Approaches of Teaching English: An Overview**Deepak Manoharrao Throat**

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Abstract:

Now a day's English plays an important role in teaching learning process. While teaching, a teacher has to keep in mind the aims and objectives of his subject, need, interest of his pupil. Success of this profession depends upon good planning, mastery in the subject to be taught and appropriate use of methods and approaches. A good teacher always wants that his teaching should be effective and the entire student should properly attend, listen to him and try to grasp what he teaches in the class. In this paper we compare Methods and approaches as a helping aid of teacher.

Key words- methods, approach, axiomatic

Introduction:

Methods and approach of teaching English are very important in the process of learning and teaching. It tells the teacher how the matter should be taught. It is a tool. The selection of the right method ensures success of the teacher, because method helps us to know how something should be presented. If better methods and Approaches of teaching are devised, it is possible to learn more effectively.

According to W.F. Mackey, "A method determines what and how much is taught (selection), the order in which it is taught (gradation), how the meaning and form are conveyed (presentation) and what is done to make the use of the language unconscious. It deals with form of things that is selection, gradation, presentation and repetition."

Bertrand Russell asks the question, what to teach and how to teach? They should be intimately connected. Approach deals 'what to teach' and method deals with 'how to teach'. An approach is set of correlative assumption dealing with the nature of language teaching and learning. An approach is axiomatic. It describes the nature of the subject matter to be taught. An method is an overall plan for the orderly presentation of language material, no part of which contradicts and all of which is based upon the selected approach. An approach is axiomatic, a method is procedural.

There are certain basic methods and Approaches which are valuable for teaching and learning process.

A) Methods:

- 1) Grammar-Translation Method
- 2) Direct method
- 3) Dr. West's new method
- 4) Eclectic method
- 5) Bilingual method

B) Approaches

- 1) Structural Approach
- 2) Situational Approach
- 3) Communicative Approach
- 4) Aural-oral Approach
- 5) Skill-based Approach

A) Methods:

- 1) Grammar-Translation Method:

This is the oldest method of teaching English. It is known as the classical method of teaching English. This method is called as Grammar translation method because in this method grammar predominates. In this method, the teacher translates each and every word, phrases and sentences of English into the mother tongue of the student's. In this method, the unit of teaching is a 'word' not a sentence. So the teaching of English begins with the teaching of letters. The rules of grammar were taught with the help of the mother tongue. Word by word translation is the main characteristics of this method

- 2) Direct method:

The direct method was evolved as a reaction to the Grammar-Translation Method. It is also known as natural method. It is originated in France in 1901. The method in which English taught directly is called direct method. It is a method of teaching a foreign language through conversation, discussion and

reading in the language itself, without using learner's mother-tongue, translation and without the study of formal grammar. Direct method contributes to develop the skill of speaking. It helps to establish the direct association between thought and expression.

3) Dr. West's new method:

It is also known as the reading method or the text book method. Dr. M.F. West is the father/pioneer of this method therefore it is named as Dr. West's new method. The emphasis of this method is given on reading and base is the use of text-books for reading. According to him student of India require the ability to read English. It is the best way to learn English language. It develops vocabulary, word power of the student.

4) Eclectic method:

This method is combination of merits of all methods. It is fact that there is no perfect method of teaching English. Every method has its merits and demerits. It is also a fact that no single method can suit all circumstances. Teacher has to apply different methods for teaching various aspects of language. So to achieve the objectives of teaching English the teacher has to use various methods. Thus the teacher should make use of the merits of all the methods to achieve the fourfold skills of language learning.

5) Bilingual method:

This method allows the use of the mother tongue though restricted to the teacher only and in this way this method comes near the Grammar-Translation Method to certain extent. Dodson, who is its proponent, lays stress on both mother tongue and the new language which student has to learn. According to him child can easily learn both language easily.

B) Approaches :

1) Structural Approach:

Structural Approach is one of the modern techniques of teaching English. It is also known as oral situational approach. Structural approach is based on the belief that in learning of foreign language, mastery over structure is more important than acquisition of vocabulary. Structural Approach means the arrangement of words in such a way to form a suitable pattern of sentences.

2) Situational Approach:

In this approach, English is basically taught in the same way in which the child learns his own

mother tongue. Every item of mother tongue is learnt in a real situation. Whatever the child understands and expressed is connected with his own life. In situational approach, teacher can create the various situations which help the students to learn the English language easily. They are

a) Visual experience

b) Verbal experiences

c) Classroom situations

d) Real life situations

3) Communicative Approach:

This approach lays emphasis on the use of language. According to Dell Hymes, the purpose of teaching language is the communicative competence. This approach is developed by Trim, David and Henry. The development of language learning, the move towards an eclectic method from a rigid method, the shift from teacher centered to child centered classes are all included under the broad term, communicative Approach. This approach is based upon the concept of how language is used and what is functional utility of language.

4) Aural-oral Approach:

This approach lays stress on listening and speaking skills. Aural deals with the matter that has been listened to and oral deals with its face to face presentation. It gives emphasis on oral practice in the classroom than exercises in writing. Students can learn correct pronunciation of words through this approach. Sounds, words and structures are the basics of a language. English language can be learnt easily with this approach

5) Skill based Approach:

English is taught as a foreign language in India. It is taught as a second or third language. So it has practical purpose. It should be taught as a language and not as a literature. While teaching language, there are four skills which are to be developed. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students must be trained to listen, to speak, to read and to write English correctly and properly.

Conclusion:

Thus there are various methods and approaches evolved for teaching and learning English language. It is the skill of the teacher to use adequate method at the proper place in teaching various aspects of English language. Hence, the

teacher should be fully acquainted with the different methods and Approaches of teaching English to make the teaching effective, interesting and lively.

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