

## Methods of Teaching English as a Foreign Language

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**Abstract:** The methods of teaching English language is the most important and necessary thing for our modern life. This article aims to help young school teachers understand the characteristics of the different methods used in teaching a foreign language and to achieve good results. This review paper defines the most common and influential teaching methods: Grammar Translation method, Direct method, Audio-lingual method and Communicative language teaching.

**Key words:** English, skills, effectively, teaching methods, activities, language learners

### Introduction

The English language is very important language, as it is spoken and understood around the world. It is also known as a global language. English language is a global phenomenon that serves as a means of communication for people from various backgrounds. It is a West Germanic language that originated in England and is now spoken by millions worldwide. English has become the lingua franca of the current world, significantly impacting numerous aspects of life, including education, business, travel, and culture.

*Global Communication:* English is the most widely spoken second language globally, making it a bridge language that connects people from different cultures. Proficiency in English enables individuals to communicate effectively with people from diverse backgrounds, fostering international understanding and collaboration.

*Education Opportunities:* English is the primary language of instruction in many reputable universities and educational institutions worldwide. Acquiring strong English language skills opens doors to educational opportunities in top-ranked universities, scholarships, and research programs.

*Career Advancement:* English language skills are highly valued by employers in various industries. Proficiency in English enhances employability and opens doors to a wider range of job opportunities, both locally and internationally. Many high-paying jobs require a strong command of English, especially in fields such as international business, tourism, journalism, and academia.

*Cultural Enrichment:* English is not just a language; it is also a gateway to literature, art, and culture. By learning English, individuals get access to a wide spread collection of literary masterpieces, films, music, and other forms of creative expression. This exposure expands cultural view and provides a deeper understanding of the world. Furthermore, studying English language and literature provides a solid foundation for developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These skills greatly are highly valued by employers across multitudinous industries, making English majors interesting candidates for job opportunities.

Therefore, investing in English language studies is a wise decision for anyone looking to enhance their prospects for success in an highly globalized society. Whether pursuing a career in academia, business, or any other field, mastering English language skills will open doors to countless

opportunities. In summary, mastering English language skills is vital for unlocking global opportunities.

For this reasons, there is a great need to learn and teach English effectively. Nowadays language teaching requires specific methods that are important for students to develop language skills and acquire vocabulary and grammar. Methods used in language teaching include a range of instructional approaches and techniques used to facilitate grammar acquisition. Methods are essential because they provide an organized framework for teachers to deliver instructions and knowledge effectively. The choice of teaching method is vital to meet all the requirements of successful language teaching and learning. The choice of teaching method plays a crucial role in shaping the learning process.

Interest in the teaching English to learners has been steadily growing in recent years. Now English offered in primary and even in pre-school education. It is worth remembering that every child has own inner incentive for learning a foreign language and the teacher's task is to develop this motivation. There are a number of reasons for teaching English at the primary level. Here are the basis ones:

- The most favorable period for linguistic development can be used successfully to form a solid basis for further linguistic education;
- An early start provides maximum learning time for English as a foreign language- the earlier you start the more time you have to learn;
- From an early age children are exposed to the cultures of the countries where the target language is spoken; they grow up tolerant and sympathetic to other people;
- Learning a foreign language at early age, apart from practical value, stimulates children's ability to use their mother tongue better;
- Learning languages improves children's memory, thinking, perception, imagination;

The importance of considering the methods and techniques in teaching foreign languages is due to several reasons, such as: 1. in today's world of learning foreign languages need to be revised as a common methodology and specific methods and techniques to find the most effective methods and techniques; 2. the methods and techniques of foreign language teaching are important components of the educational process, as without the use of any of the methods is almost impossible to realize the goals and objectives of the decision of foreign language teaching, so each teacher must be able to competently use the necessary means for the educational process; 3. the most difficult is the search for such methods, which would be most fully consistent with its objectives. The problem of the correct choice of Volume 4, Issue 7: Special Issue (EJAR) methods and techniques of teaching is quite complicated, since it is these problems cause some difficulties for many teachers. But no one cannot say which method is the best or worst.

As K.T.Henson mentioned, "usually the methods are better for some purpose, for instance, understanding, transfer, but there is no method simply the best for everything". And M.J.Wallace believes that "a central factor in the choice of methods is the learner's needs and characters; some method works one person well, but the same method might not work at all for another person" Before the question of considering such issues as the choice of the most effective method of teaching foreign languages, let's turn to the consideration of the concepts of "method" and "methodology". According to the Webster's Third New International dictionary, Method is a procedure or process for attaining a goal or a systematic procedure, technique or a set of rules. As A.N.Shukin interprets the term "method" (from the Greek "Methodos"-way of research or knowledge) it is "a way to achieve the goal. As the basic category of techniques, training methods are components of the training system" As Henson mentioned "strategies represent a complex approach to teaching which often contains a mixture of teaching methods, utilizing a number of techniques with each method"<sup>5</sup>. To sum up, we can say that methodology is a set of methods based on the same rules and having a common aim, to encourage students to use the language, involve the

students in the lesson, or explaining the language to students who have to listen attentively. In language learning process teachers may have a number of teaching methods in between traditional and modern. Everybody has their own understanding and conclusions on teaching English language. But there is not a marked line between different methods, there is mixture between them.

### **Differentiation method**

Teaching English to young learners has its own peculiarities based on psychophysiology of their age. Psychologists assert that preschoolers' perception, memory and attention are involuntary. Children cannot regulate their perception and analyze an object. Schoolchildren's attention is drawn by bright objects. Their concentration lasts as long as they are interested in the activity.

Therefore, the essential methods of teaching EFL to young learners are based on 3 principles:

1. role plays;
2. communicative methods;
3. Total physical involvement.

Learning a foreign language is a pleasant moment in a child's life. He climbs the stairs to a new level of knowledge. In an effort to teach children the basics of English phonetics, grammar and enrich their vocabulary, a teacher overshadows the individual characteristics of a child, the reaction rate, mental health [6]. Because of this, children cannot move forward in learning knowledge as the basis for successful learning is not only the traditional age principle.

Students might be very varied in their prior learning, motivation, learning style, and in other respects. One needs to teach in a way that accommodates these differences, which is called differentiation. The main goal of a differentiation approach is not to provide the necessary minimum in the assimilation of knowledge and skills, but to ensure the greatest possible depth in mastering the material, proper development of abilities of each student. Thus, differentiation involves an implementation of developing learning .

In elementary school, it is useful to divide most children into groups based on the basic channel of perception. This allows a greater training effect. Although, the bone of contention is the training based on the type of child's temperament. This type is considered to be impractical in a traditional lesson system. This division is more suitable for extra-curricular activities such as the preparation of the play or concert.

It is possible to apply a gender perspective at any stage of the lesson when working with any language material. Modern research shows there are quite large differences in the behavior and training of boys and girls due to a number of factors – biological, physiological, neuropsychological, social, psychological and pedagogical.

### **Use of Games in the educational process**

Language learning is hard work. Games can be found to give practice in all the skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking), in all the stages of the teaching/learning, sequence (presentation, repetition, recombination and free use of language) and for many types of communication functions (encouraging, criticizing, agreeing; explaining). 4. Class and individual work, work in groups and in pairs Of the four types of grouping, pair and group work are very important if each learner is to have sufficient oral practice in the use of the language. In class work it is easy to demonstrate that learners say only one or two sentences in lesson. The greatest "mistake" (if oral ability is an aim) is for the l can not to speak at all! The method of project work is worth mentioning too: it gives every student a good chance to show their creative individuality and develops their team spirit at the same time. Pair work is easy and fast to organize. It provides opportunities for intensive listening and speaking practice. Pair work is better than group work if there are discipline problems. Indeed, for all these reasons we often to organize games in pair or general class work, rather than in group work.

Methods of Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

There are various methods and approaches used to teach English as a foreign language (EFL), each with its own philosophy and techniques. The methods can be categorized based on their focus on language skills, learner engagement, and the role of the teacher. Below are some of the most commonly used methods in TEFL:

#### 1. Grammar-Translation Method

- Focus: Vocabulary and grammar rules.
- Description: This traditional method emphasizes memorization of grammar rules, vocabulary, and translation of sentences between the target language (English) and the native language. It does not prioritize speaking or listening practice.

Often used in formal settings, such as schools, where the aim is to develop reading and writing skills.

- Example: Students may translate sentences like “I am going to the store” into their native language and analyze its grammatical structure.

#### 2. Direct Method

- Focus: Speaking and listening.
- Description: This method avoids using the students’ native language and teaches English directly through immersion. Vocabulary and grammar are taught in context, and students learn through speaking and listening.

Suitable for beginner to intermediate learners who are primarily focused on conversational skills.

- Example: Teachers use visuals, actions, or real-life situations to explain words and concepts, and students are encouraged to speak as much as possible.

#### 3. Audio-Lingual Method

- Focus: Listening and speaking skills through repetition.
- Description: Based on behaviorist psychology, this method emphasizes drills, repetition, and reinforcement. Students practice structures and patterns through controlled dialogues and exercises.

Effective for students who need to develop fluency in speaking and listening.

- Example: A teacher may repeat a sentence such as “I am eating an apple” and have students repeat it many times until they master the pronunciation and structure.

#### 4. Communicative Language Teaching

- Focus: Communication and functional language use.

CLT focuses on developing the ability to communicate in real-life situations. It emphasizes fluency over accuracy and encourages students to use language for real communication rather than just learning grammar rules.

Most effective for students aiming to use English in practical, social, and professional contexts.

- Example: Role-playing, debates, and group activities where students practice language in realistic contexts (e.g., ordering food at a restaurant or making a complaint).

#### 5. Task-Based Language Teaching

- Focus: Learning through tasks and problem-solving.

This method focuses on using meaningful tasks (e.g., planning a trip, solving a problem) as the central unit of instruction. Students complete tasks using the target language, and language is learned as a tool to achieve specific outcomes.

Suitable for students who learn best through experiential learning and problem-solving.

- Example: A task might involve students planning a vacation, booking flights, and creating a travel itinerary using English.

## 6. Total Physical Response

- Focus: Listening and understanding through physical movement.

TPR involves students responding physically to commands in English, which helps them connect language with actions. This method is especially effective for beginners and young learners.

Often used with young learners or beginner students to develop understanding and speaking skills.

- Example: The teacher might say, “Stand up,” and students will physically stand up. Later, the teacher might give more complicated commands like, “Touch your toes.”

## 7. The Silent Way

- Focus: Student autonomy and problem-solving.

This method emphasizes the learner’s autonomy. The teacher speaks very little and encourages students to discover language rules and concepts themselves, often through the use of visual aids like charts and color-coded pronunciation guides.

Best suited for advanced learners who need to focus on problem-solving and discovering language patterns.

- Example: The teacher might use a chart of sounds and ask students to arrange them in the correct order to form words or sentences.

## 8. Use of Games in the educational process

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### 9. Utilize visual aids

The strategy of using visual aids also connects to the idea of differentiated instruction, which is considered central to teaching English language learners. In this case, it is understood that some students are “visual learners” whose ability to digest and process new concepts and material is enhanced by the use of pictures, diagrams, charts and other visual tools.

The belief is that combining “nonlinguistic representation” along with the linguistic component of each lesson benefits all students and not just English language learners — the operative strategy here is to “show” as well as “tell.” In addition to pictures, diagrams, etc., teachers are encouraged to write everything on the board so students can see as well as hear the information.

### 10. Build in some group work

Instructor-led, whole-class activities may make up most of your class period but it can also be very helpful to build in time for group work as well. This is because it affords additional opportunities for ELLs to practice their language skills with peers in a less formal, lower-risk setting.

## **Conclusion**

Each method has its own strengths and is suitable for different types of learners and learning environments. Many modern EFL classrooms blend elements from different approaches to create a more personalized, effective learning experience. The choice of method often depends on the learner's level, goals, and the context in which the language is being taught.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS Here I tried to study the main differences between traditional and modern methods too. And by this, we came to conclusion that:

1. the traditional method focused on teaching rules and practises it in translating but Modern teaching is to teach the learner to communicate;
2. the traditional method prefers routines and limited number of methods, such as lectures, translation activities and others but modern method consists of a great number of activities with different aims which are balanced;
3. the traditional method relies on memorizing rules and isolated items of lexics. Modern method employs more contextualized information and practice real life situations which are attractive for students.
4. the traditional method claim that students learn well if they listen to the teacher and don't make mistakes but modern method suggest that one has to experiment with the language, to learn using it.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS So every teacher chooses his/her method of teaching foreign language himself/herself. He/she might use the both, traditional and modern method, in the teaching process completely. It depends on teacher's professionalism and knowledge of using different methods. We think that teachers, who works with EFL classes, can found this work precious for them.

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