

HISTORICAL METHODS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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ABSTRACT:

By the impact of the foreign rulers, after the independence we have been adopted English language as one of the subjects of an Educational syllabus in India. It is really true that, English is not our mother tongue. Though Hindi is our National Language, it is undoubtedly accepted as an official and court language for not only in India but Most of the Countries. India is a only country has being more than two thousand languages. It is for that C.Rajagopalachari has shown his views that 'It is a biggest worry to the entire educationist in India and it is create communal ill feeling also'. For that reason from the beginning itself we have been using a lot of methods and approaches to teach and learn English Language especially in the grammar section. Nearly more than four methods followed to teach English language for touch our goal successfully. Among them the researcher presents only three methods in this paper. These methods are finely pushed up the rural students to understand the rules and guidelines for the grammar. Slowly it helps them to avoid the errors. So in this paper, The Researcher tries to show all the possible ways of historical methods in teaching English language.

Key words: English language, Grammar, Methods, Teachers and Students.

English language has become a part and parcel of human life. English is an essential language wherever the people go to survive in the world. A master is the responsible person in the society to make the students clear in language especially in English.

In historical methods in English language teaching, generally four kinds of methods are followed in India for Indian learners.

1. Grammar translation method
2. Bilingual method
3. Direct method
4. Dr. West's method

Based on the above all, tutors in India are taking the English language classes in very successful manner.

1. Grammar Translation Method:

Grammar translation method is the finest as well as the eldest methods than other methods which are following in our land. In this method, the English master translates each and every segment of the sentence such as word and phrase of the English into the native language of the pupils. Tutors have been used this technique when the teaching of the English language began in our nation. It's very popular as well as still the most of the teachers follow this method to give a very strong base to the listeners in grammar.

1. Principles of the Grammar Translation Method:

Significance to mother tongue: In grammar translation method, mother tongue plays a vital role; it is the dominating language also. Each and every word, phrase and sentence of the foreign language clearly explains in the mother tongue of the learners. It really helps the students to notice and grasp the meaning of the foreign language through the native language.

Importance to Grammar: Importance of grammar is stressed in Grammar Translation Method. English teacher can simplify the rules for the students through the native language. The knowledge of the grammatical rules helps the pupils to rectify and even avoid the mistakes.

The Unit of teaching English is a word: In this method, teacher starts to teach with the sounds of alphabets, then he or she moves to teach the words and teacher encourages the students to form a new word and finally it proceeds to sentences therefore the unit of teaching English is a word and not a sentence.

2. Advantages of Grammar Translation Method:

- i. This is the most simple and the fastest method of language teaching.
- ii. It helps to develop the word power of students rapidly with the help of mother tongue.
- iii. It allows the tutor to test the students' understanding ability of English language easily and quickly by making use of mother tongue.
- iv. It helps to save the time of the teacher.
- v. Very difficult words, abstract words, idioms and phrases can be explained with the help of translation method.
- vi. It is obvious that till now teachers are to be followed in the classroom where there are large numbers of students in each class.
- vii. It helps to the students learn many aspects of English.

2. Bilingual Method:

Bilingual method is nothing but, teachers are used both languages (foreign language and the mother tongue) to explain the students. Learners are acquired the knowledge through this method simultaneously they can get an opportunity to learn the foreign language.

The following aspects have shown to the distinguished between the bilingual method and the grammar translation method:

- i. The master does not use the native language continuously but uses it only for explaining the meaning of strange words.
- ii. Listeners are given an immense active based works in the drill of sentence patterns. It is not provided in the translation method.

According to Dr.A.Meenakshisundaram "Bilingual method means a method in which two languages, the language to be learned and the mother tongue are used. A child through this method learns the mother tongue or grasps the situation and learns the foreign language words simultaneously" (p.217).

Some scholars argue that bilingual method and grammar translation method both are same and there is no difference among them. But it quietly differs from the translation method as the following points:

- i. The teachers do not make use mother tongue regularly but they are using this technique just for explain the difficult words of the foreign language.
- ii. Children are given a lot of exercises in the drill of sentence patterns but it is not provided in the grammar translation method.

Principles of the Bilingual Method:

- i. For understanding the words and sentence of the foreign languages, teacher makes it very simple to the learners with help of mother tongue.
- ii. There is no necessary to insert the artificial situation to explain the proper meaning of the foreign language.
- iii. Bilingual language is the combination of the grammar translation method and direct method.

Advantages of the Bilingual language:

There are six advantages of the Bilingual method of teaching English:

- i. This method creates benefit of language and linguistic when students are learning with the help of the mother tongue.
- ii. It is very suitable one for the teacher as well as the students to save the time properly and no need to create artificial situations or clear their doubts.
- iii. Through the mother tongue, pupil learns the meaning of English sentences and every word is explained and made them very clear. It is ensured the accuracy.
- iv. The learners are given a lot of practice in speaking English in this method.
- v. It is very useful method for an average teacher. Because they can take the classes very effectively by this method.
- vi. In this method there is no need to spend a lot of money to make the situation like direct method.

Direct Method:

The direct method is a non-translation method. It has oral teaching as an important component. The first few weeks of instruction in this method are devoted to pronunciation. Direct method is also called as natural method. In this method teacher takes the class only in foreign language.

Definition:

Direct method in teaching a language is directly establishing an immediate and audio visual association between experience and expression, words and phrases, idioms and meanings, rules and performances through the teachers' body and mental skills, without any help of the learners, mother tongue

Advantages of the Direct Method:

1. In direct method teacher gives more important on oral work. It helps the students to ensure the good pronunciation.
2. It helps to make the direct bond between thought and expression. So it helps the learners have good command over language and to have fluency in speech.
3. For explaining the idioms of English, this is very suitable for the teacher.
4. Through this method English teaching is going to easy and pleasant.
5. It helps the students and the tutors to cover the syllabus within the time duration.
6. Psychologically, it is a very good method because the teacher proceeds from particular to general and from concrete to abstract.

Conclusion:

Historical methods have provided new elements at the same time it has faced to deal with some issues of language learning. However, they have received in different historical status, mentioned different social and learning based requires and have variety of theoretical consideration. Though this methods have been applying for long time in teaching practice, in very effective and efficient manner till it is true that, practitioners should take these questions in mind: who are the learners, what are their current level or position of language proficiency, what sort of communicative needs they have, What is the importance of English, Why do we learn English through this methods and the circumstances in which learners will have been using the target language in the future, and so on. In a statement, no single method could provide successful and efficient results. It is totally based on the learners self interest and self effort.

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