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Course: TESOL - Methods

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Four Teaching Methods Summary Chart

Assignment: Summary of Four Methods

Each teaching method is based on a particular vision of understanding the language or the learning process, often using specific techniques and materials used in a set sequence. Each method has a different focus or priority.

This week you will pick four (4) of the methods we have studied. Give a summary and answer the chart questions.

SAMPLE

Method: The Silent Way

Summary: 50 to 150 words

The teacher uses silence as a teaching method. Charts rods and pointers are used. The teacher uses gestures to show the students. The teacher is mostly silent. It is based on the methodology that the teacher should be mostly silent. The learners are encouraged to speak and interact. There are three basic principles: The learner needs to discover and create. Learning is made easier by using objects such as rods. Learning is easier when problem solving is involved.

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages	Historical Context	Example	Role of the teacher
The Silent Way	Student centered	Time Consuming / Possibly boring	Developed in 1970's by Caleb Gattegno	The students take turns tapping out the sentences on the word charts	Facilitator

Method: Grammar-Translation Method

Summary:

This age-old method was the way classical and modern languages were traditionally learned, with applications primarily to written language and literary works. Cognates are similarities identified as ways to bridge a learner's language and English. The focus is on reading - especially on translating literary excerpts - and on writing. Memorization of vocabulary and grammatical rules are essential. The teacher is the authority in the classroom.

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages	Historical Context	Example	Role of the teacher
Grammar-Translation	Good for learning literature	Does not lend itself well to spoken language	"Classical" Hundreds of years old	Students work in both languages	Traditional authority

Method: The Direct Method

Summary:

This traditional oral-based method does not allow for students to use their native tongue - just English. Other cultural aspects are learned besides just the language. Teaching aids may include gestures, pictures, and realia. Besides responses to questions from the teacher, conversation among students is encouraged. Vocabulary is stressed rather than grammar. The teacher collaborates with the students as a partner.

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages	Historical Context	Example	Role of the teacher
The Direct Method	Use target language to communicate; learn culture	Less written learning than verbal	Quite old	Students ask questions about a map	Partner with students in learning process

Method: Audio-Lingual Method

Summary:

This 80-year old oral-based method relies on repetitive drills for students to learn grammatical sentence patterns. Only the target language is used, with exercises that could include substitution, transformation, and question-and-answer drills. Besides language, the target culture is also presented. The teacher assesses where differences between the native and target languages might occur.

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages	Historical Context	Example	Role of the teacher
Audio-Lingual Method	Immersion in the target language	Minimizing of vocabulary	Developed by Charles Fries at U of Mich, 1945. Additional development by Skinner	Students practice drills	Like an orchestra conductor

Method: Desuggestopedia

Summary:

Surely one of the most unique ways to learn, this method takes the learner to a whole new environment visually and audibly - even possibly receiving a new name in the process. There are many stimuli and elements presented, including dramatization and fantasy, yet the ultimate goal is to evoke a calm and safe childlike state. The idea is to detach from unhelpful habits in the process of learning the target language. In this new state, it is felt students will more successfully be able to translate, ask and answer questions, and gain confidence in the target language.

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages	Historical Context	Example	Role of the teacher
Desuggestopedia	Different environment helps learning	Students may feel adrift	Introduced by Georgi Lozanov in 1978	Students play, maybe even sing	The authority