



THE ROLE OF DIRECT METHOD IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract: *The Direct Method aims to create a language-rich environment where students are actively engaged in using and understanding the target language. It promotes fluency, speaking skills, and natural language acquisition. The Direct Method aims at establishing the direct bond between thought and expressions and between experience and language. It is based on the assumption that the learner should experience the new language in the same way as he experienced his mother tongue.*

Key words: *Natural Method, immersion, native language, communication, context-rich conversations, gestures, accuracy, expressions, pronunciation, Grammar Translation, language skills, instinctive, target language*

INTRODUCTION

The Direct Method, also known as the Natural Method, is an educational approach to language teaching that focuses on learning through immersion and communication. Developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Direct Method aims to teach language directly, without using translation of the student's native language.

MAIN BODY

There are some key elements which includes Direct Method:

1. Oral emphasis: The Direct Method emphasizes oral communication skills, with focusing on speaking and listening. Vocabulary and grammar are taught through meaningful and context- conversations.
2. Everyday situations: Language learning is centered on real-life situations, such as ordering food, asking for directions, or having a conversation with others. The goal is to develop practical language skills that can be immediately applied.
3. Demonstration and association: The teacher demonstrates vocabulary and grammar structures through gestures, props, or pictures. This helps students understand meaning without relying on translation.
4. Repetition and drilling: Students engage in repetitive practice and drilling to reinforce language patterns and improve accuracy and fluency.



5. Contextualized learning: Language is taught in a contextualized manner, with focusing on the natural use of language in different situations.

Grammar is taught inductively, with students discovering language rules through exposure to meaningful examples. The Direct Method aims to create a language-rich environment where students are actively engaged in using and understanding the target language. It promotes fluency, speaking skills, and natural language acquisition. However, it can require significant teacher preparation and may be challenging for certain learners without supplemental materials or support. The Direct Method aims at establishing the direct bond between thought and expressions and between experience and language. It is based on the assumption that the learner should experience the new language in the same way as he experienced his mother tongue. In the Grammar Translation Method, the foreign concept or idea is first translated into the mother tongue and then understood. But in the Direct Method the intervention of the mother tongue is done away with the learner understands what he reads or hears in the second or foreign language without thinking of the mother tongue equivalence. Likewise, he speaks or writes the foreign language without the need of translating his thought or idea from the mother tongue into the second/foreign language. He acquires, what Champion calls that instinctive, unerring language sense which we all possess in variant degree in the mother tongue, and which superseding all rules, grammar and dictionaries, resting at bottom on the direct association between experience and expression, is the only sure guide in the use of language. The Direct Method was the outcome of a reaction against the Grammar Translation Method. It was based on the assumption that the learner of a foreign language should think directly in the target language. According to this method, English is taught through English. The learner learns the target language through discussion, conversation and reading in the second language. It does not take recourse to translation and foreign grammar. The first verses are taught while pointing to objects or pictures or by performing actions. According to H.G. Palmer, The Direct Method has the following:

1. Translation in every shape or form is banished from the classroom including the use of the mother tongue and that of the bilingual dictionary.
2. Grammar, when it is taught, is taught inductively.
3. Oral teaching precedes any form of reading and writing.
4. The use of disconnected sentences is replaced by the use of connected texts.
5. Pronunciation is taught systematically in accordance with the principles of phonetics and phonology of the target language.
6. The meanings of words and forms are taught by means of object or natural context.
7. The vocabulary and structure of the language are inculcated to a large extent by the teacher and answered by students. This method does not differentiate



between active and passive vocabularies. According to this method whatever is required for understanding through English is also required for expressing through it. If English is taught through the mother tongue, the gulf between the active and passive vocabularies is widened. The learner acquires more of passive vocabulary because he concentrates on understanding English rather than expressing through it.

CONCLUSION:

Direct Method is productive method which influences in increasing language skills. Direct Method aims at establishing the direct bond between thought and expressions and between experience and language. It is based on the assumption that the learner should experience the new language in the same way as he experienced his mother tongue

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