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## Pedagogy of Teaching English – Part 4

### Scope of English Language

English is an international language. English has been playing an important role in our educational system as well as in our national life. English was supreme in the pre-independent India, because of British rule over India. English still occupies an important place and position in courts, trade, commerce, industry, educational system and national life of India

### An Official Language

English was the official language of administration during the British period. After the independence of India, English has been declared as the Associate Official Language of the Union of India for an indefinite period by an Act of Parliament in 1963. As such it dominates the administrative business at the centre as well as in the states. All the administrative work is done in English throughout the country.

### Language of Court

English still continues to be the language of the courts. So far there is no other suitable language for legal business. Cases are presented and judgments are given in English in Supreme, High and District courts of India.

## **Language of International Trade and Industry**

English dominates the fields of trade and industry in the country. Because all the work in these fields is carried on in English, such as; maintenance of accounts, audit and correspondence

## **A Link Language**

English is a national link language of India as well as an international link language of the world. It is the only language which is understood in all states of India and all countries of the world.

## **A Library Language**

English is the key to the storehouse of knowledge. Most of this knowledge is not yet available in Indian languages

## **Importance in Education**

English plays an important role in the field of education. It is taught as a compulsory subject in most of the states in the country. It is the medium of instruction in technical, medical, law, science, commerce and other institutions.

## **Window to the Modern World**

English is a window through which we can see the scientific, technological, agricultural and commercial developments taking place in the world. English is the only language through which we have distilled the essence of modern knowledge in all fields of human activity

## **Importance in Social Life**

English plays an important role in the social life of the country. The highly educated and sophisticated sections of our society find it more convenient to talk in English.

## Lingua Franca of India and World

Lingua Franca means the language of communication used by people belonging to different languages. English is the Lingua Franca of not only India but throughout the world.

## Language of Western Science and Arts

English was the key which opened the gates of western sciences and arts to Indians. By learning English, they not only got a peep into the western sciences and arts but some of them also acquired mastery over them

## Language of Science and Technology

English is the language of science and information & communication technology on which the management and administration of the entire world is dependent

## Language of our Literary Development

The credit of developing the Indian languages goes to English. By reading English books, Indian writers developed their own language and literature. The development of modern Indian novel, short stories, drama and literary criticism is entirely due to the impact of English on Indian languages

## Teaching English as a Second Language

According to Wikipedia (2017), 'A person's second language is a language that is not the native language of the speaker, but that is used in the locale of that person.' In other words, a second language is learned in addition to the mother tongue of the learner for its practical utility in day to day life and affairs. Therefore, the mother tongue of the learner is called as the first language or L1 and any language that is learned in addition to the mother tongue is known as second language or L2

In the present context, English has acquired the place of the Second language in India for its national and global importance as a language of knowledge, communication, education, business, trade, commerce, science, technology and a window on the modern world. Therefore, English has been or used by Indians for utilitarian purposes

### 3 major views related to language

The structural view: language comprises structures they carry meaning (e.g. grammar).

The functional view: language is a medium to complete a certain function (e.g. requesting, enquiring, etc.).

The interactive view: language is a means to make and maintain social relations in society, concentrating on patterns of moves, acts, negotiation and interaction found in conversational exchanges

#### Know it

An approach is a set of...assumptions dealing with the nature of language teaching and learning

A method is an overall plan for the orderly presentation of language material... and all of which is based upon, the selected approach.

A technique is that which actually takes place in a classroom. Techniques must be consistent with a method, and therefore in harmony with an approach as well.

## METHOD OF TEACHING

### Grammar-Translation Method

The grammar–translation method originated in the 1500s when Latin was extensively studied as a foreign language due to its importance in various fields like academia, business, etc. but the use of Latin gradually declined during the century, and it was substituted by English, and other European languages

### Principles of Grammar-Translation Method

Emphasis is on reading and writing consequently, L1 is used while teaching, Learners learn grammar rules deductively, Rote learning is encouraged, Grammar drills and translation from L1 to L2 are common, “Form” is more important than “content”, Evaluation is based on translation of texts and The textbook is the only teaching-learning material

### Merits of Grammar-Translation Method

Both the teacher and the learner use L1 while teaching and learning respectively, Translation of new words provides clear understanding to the learner, The teacher need not strive for accuracy, The philosophical principle, known to unknown is followed. Hence, the learners easily comprehend teaching points, The teacher is relaxed while teaching, as the efforts she has to put in is minimal, and the teacher can evaluate the learner’s comprehension easily

### Demerits of Grammar-Translation Method

It does not improve the oral fluency in English, It is tedious and uninteresting as the learners have to memorize words and rules, It does not build confidence in the learners, There is no restriction in using L1 in class, Language items learnt are away from real life situations, The learner is unable to use English in day to day communication, and this method focuses only on reading and writing. Speaking is ignored.

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