

VIII "Teaching English as a foreign language"

In India English is taught as a

Second and foreign language. The term "Second language" is used because it has become a lingua-franca ^{among} between speakers of widely diverse languages. By English as a foreign language is meant that English is taught as a school subject or an adult level solely for giving students foreign language competence. A sound knowledge of the principles of teaching English language is needed. Since these principles are fruitful for all foreign language teaching, they are also valuable for English teaching.

"Principles of teaching English as a foreign language."

1. The mother tongue is always learnt easily because there is a natural environment for learning mother tongue. But this is not true with foreign language. The child learns this language in his classes for four or six periods in a week. Therefore, it becomes difficult for him to learn the language. Hence, a natural environment would be provided by:
 - (i) Talking to students in the foreign language in the class, playground etc.
 - (ii) Arranging for group discussion.

(2) Principles of Exposure — The child learns the mother tongue more rapidly because he is more exposed to the environment, where this language is spoken or written. Hence the teacher should try to expose students to an environment loaded with the foreign language.

(3) Principle of Habit formation: — Palmer says: — "Language learning is essentially a habit forming process, a process during which we acquire new habits." Language habit should become a nature. An attempt should be made to form habits →

~ P.T.O. →

in the students by the following process:-

- (i) habit of listening to sounds and distinguishing between sounds
- (ii) habit of speaking with proper intonation and accent.
- (iii) habit of reading newspapers, magazines, storybook etc.
- (iv) habit of going to library
- (v) habit of consulting dictionary
- (vi) habit of imitation
- (vii) habit of spelling
- (viii) habit of repeating
- (ix) habit of correct pronunciation.
- (x) habit of using words in their proper contexts.
- (xi) habit of using correct grammar
- (xii) habit of reading aloud with exact articulation.
- (xiii) habit of silent reading

4) Proceed from the concrete to the abstract:-
The teacher must begin his lesson with concrete things. He must talk about things not about words. He must say, I write, I stand, I sit etc. and must do it as he says it.

5) Make all lessons interesting and attractive: → This principle is as important for the teaching of English as for any other subjects. In the earlier stage lessons can be made interesting and attractive. Wren says, "By utilizing objects and pictures interesting to the class, as subjects of conversation, by allowing all boys to do something as well as to say something, by giving fullest play, within the limits

of good descriptive to the childish instinct for activity, change and movement. In the later stages, interest can be aroused and maintained by dramatization.

(6) **Teaching Inductively:** — Inductive teaching means that teacher if he has to teach 'verb' should perform a number of action and write their names on the blackboard instead of giving its comprehensive definition "A verb is a word which tells what a thing does!"

(7) "The principles of proper order & proportion": — The four distinct activities involved in language learning are —

- (i) Understanding
- (ii) Speaking
- (iii) Reading
- (iv) Writing

While teaching a language the sequence should be as numbered and equal emphasis should be put on each aspect.

(8) **Active and Passive Vocabulary:** → One objective of teaching English is to increase the vocabulary of students. There are two kinds of vocabulary —

(i) **Passive Vocabulary:** → Those words which are recognized and understood, but never used in speaking and writing formulate this type of vocabulary.

(ii) **Active Vocabulary:** → Words which are recognized and understood and constantly used by the learner in speaking and writing form the active vocabulary. The teacher should use (Active) familiar words in class.

(9) **The Principle of Motivation:** → Motivation is the core of learning. Perhaps, no other

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Principle is so important as ^{unit} of motivation, because a student motivated to learn a foreign language can himself manage to learn the language, some how or the other. But to motivate students to learn the foreign language is an up-hill task as there is no internal force for learning this language. Therefore, special techniques are required to motivate students to learn the foreign language. They are: —

- (i) Arousing technique
- (ii) Expectancy techniques &
- (iii) Incentive techniques.

(10) **Principle of gradation:** — Gradation means

simplifying the matter. The idea behind the principle of gradation is to so simplify the matter that language learning becomes more easy. It can be done on the basis of

- (i) Principle of grouping
- (ii) Principle of sequencing
- (iii) Grammatical sequence
- (iv) Logical sequence &
- (v) Semantic sequence

(5) (11) **The principle of Correlation with life:** →

While teaching the subjects matter should be related to life, customs, traditions, peculiarities and characteristics of the particular society to which the students belong. These are the various principles to teaching a foreign language.

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