

ENGLISH METHOD- STUDY MATERIAL FOR SECOND SEMESTER

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF METHODS AND APPROACHES OF LANGUAGE TEACHING

Grammar Translation Method: The **grammar–translation method** is a method of teaching foreign languages derived from the classical (sometimes called traditional) method of teaching Greek and Latin. In grammar–translation classes, students learn grammatical rules and then apply those rules by translating sentences between the target language and the native language. Advanced students may be required to translate whole texts word-for-word. The method has two main goals: to enable students to read and translate literature written in the source language, and to further students' general intellectual development. It originated from the practice of teaching Latin; in the early 1500s, students learned Latin for communication, but after the language died out it was studied purely as an academic discipline. When teachers started teaching other foreign languages in the 19th century, they used the same translation-based approach as had been used for teaching Latin. The method has been criticized for its shortcomings.

The **Grammar-Translation Method (GTM)** evolved from the Classical Method that was used from the 15th century in the teaching of Latin and Greek — both long-since dead languages. Latin and Greek were taught to promote the intellect and virtually no attempt was made to speak them. GTM, formalized in Germany in the late-18th century, similarly places little or no emphasis on actually speaking or communicating in the target language. Classwork is highly structured, with the teacher controlling all activities. The method focuses on the literature and grammar of the target language, with passages being translated into and from the mother tongue. Consequently, it tends to be very much text-based. Typically, the teacher gives instructions and grammatical explanations in the mother tongue. Little or no attempt is made to teach pronunciation.

Typical features of a GTM

- teacher-centred
- vocabulary taught through wordlists and translation

- reading of literary passages even at low levels, with reading comprehension questions
- practice based on translation of texts to and from MT
- elaborate presentation of grammar rules
- memorization of grammar rules and vocabulary
- vocabulary exercises include antonyms and synonyms, definitions etc based on words in reading texts
- composition exercises based on topics from reading text.

PROCEDURE OF TEACHING GRAMMAR TRANSLATION METHOD

Grammar–translation classes are usually conducted in the students' native language. Grammatical rules are learned deductively; students learn grammar rules by rote,^[7] and then practice the rules by doing grammar drills and translating sentences to and from the target language. More attention is paid to the form of the sentences being translated than to their content. When students reach more advanced levels of achievement, they may translate entire texts from the target language. Tests often involve translating classical texts.

- There is usually no listening or speaking practice, and very little attention is placed on pronunciation or any communicative aspects of the language. The skill exercised is reading and then only in the context of translation.

ADVANTAGES OF GRAMMAR TRANSLATION METHOD

Grammar-Translation Method, the first language is maintained as the reference system in the learning of the second language. Translation from one language to another plays a certain part in language learning. in the Grammar-Translation Method, comparison between two languages helps students to have a better understanding of the meaning of abstract words and complicated sentences.

Systematic study of grammatical rules plays an important role in fostering students' ability of reading comprehension and producing grammatically correct sentences. It has special importance for students in teachers' colleges for whom a good mastery of the grammar system of the target language. Understanding and manipulating the morphology and syntax will develop students' ability of analyzing and solving problems.

The focus on understanding literary texts provides the situation in which reading and writing abilities are well trained.

The Grammar-Translation makes few demands on teachers although it often creates frustration for students.

DISADVANTAGES OF GRAMMAR TRANSLATION METHOD

Overemphasis on translation can never emancipate the learners from dependence on the first language.

The Grammar-Translation puts too much emphasis on reading and writing and neglects listening and speaking. Knowing a large number of grammatical rules cannot ensure that students can use them appropriately in real communicative situation.

In the Grammar-Translation Method, the texts are mostly taken from literary works. The language learned often doesn't meet the practical needs of the learners.

Memorizing grammar rules and bilingual word lists does not motivate students to actively communicate in the target language.

The Grammar Translation Method is an age-old method in India as well as in abroad. It continued its supremacy for a long time, so it has a historical acceptance.