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Method of teaching English

1. Translation Cum Grammar Method

This method is also known as classical method. It is the oldest method and came in India with the Britishers. This method has no psychological base but has two philosophical bases. –

1. A foreign language can be easily learnt through translation.
2. Grammar is the soul of language

Procedure of teaching:– In translation cum Grammar method, the text book occupies an important place. The text book has

(a) All reading material.
(b) Specific graded vocabulary.
(c) Rules of grammar.
(d) Each lesson with some new words.

The teacher makes the meaning of every new word clear to students by translating them into mother-tongue.

He reads every sentences and translate it into mother-tongue. He points out the grammatical points and rules. This method starts with the meaning of words and then explains the meaning of phrases and sentences. The three characteristic of this method are –

1. The unit of teaching is world
2. Mother tongue dominates
3. Grammatical rules are explained by teachers

→ Principles of the method — This method is based on three broad principles:

1. Translation interprets foreign phraseology best. In the process of interpretation, the foreign phraseology is assimilated.
The structure of a foreign language is best learn which compared and contrasted with that of the mother tongue.

→ Merits of the method — This method is used since long because it has the following merits

1. It is economical because it saves time.
2. It enhances student's vocabulary
3. It helps in having better and clear understanding of world meaning.
4. This method fulfils one important maxim which is proceed from known to unknown.
5. It gives correct knowledge of English because it explains grammatical rules
6. Teachers found this method convenient. because they did not need any material aid.
7. It develops the art of translation in students
8. It also supports the notion of faculty psychologists who think that grammar disciplines the mind
9. It can be easily used even in over crowded classes

10. The method is useful in explaining differences between structures of sentences in English and vernacular.

→ Demerits of the method- It has the following demerits:

1. The method does not emphasise on the aspects speaking, reading and writing.
2. It does not teach correct articulation, intonation and pronunciation.
3. There are some words, idioms and phrases in English which reflect the culture, tradition and customs of English people. They cannot be translated into mother-tongue without losing the correct effect.
4. Translation stops students from thinking freely. This method neglects silent reading, Model reading and Rapid reading.
5. The method is dull and uninteresting because students become only passive listeners.

→ Suggestions for improvement- It has the following suggestions for improvement:

1. Large classes should be divided into small groups.
2. Question should be distributed equally in the class.
3. Students should be asked to do much written work.
4. Home work for instance, essays, poems should be done.