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Subject - Pedagogy of English (7A)

Course - B.Ed. 1st Year (2020-22)

3. Bilingual Method of Teaching

The bilingual method is comparatively a recent method proposed by C.J. Dodson of Wales. Dodson believes that this method is very effective in teaching a foreign language because his experiments on pupils yielded desirable results. The bilingual method means a method where two languages i.e. the language to be learnt and the mother tongue are used.

A child is learning the mother tongue forms the concepts and he learns the mother tongue words simultaneously. At the beginning he grasps the situation and learns the language consequently the advocates of the bilingual method believe that it is sheer wastage of time to recreate the situation when we are trying to teach him a foreign language. They advocate that the teaching learning process is facilitated if only mother tongue equivalents are given to the pupils without reconditioning the situation.

In this method the mother tongue is used to achieve the target of English language.

When we use the word bilingual as a method of teaching a foreign language we simply mean the use of the child's native language as medium to learn a

unknown foreign language. We can define bilingual as a person who can jump from one language to another easily and talk fluently about any situation in either the mother tongue or the target language with equal ease.

The so-called Bilingual Method is a midway approach between the grammar-translation method and the direct method. C. J. Dodson of the University College of Wales conducted experiments on the efficacy of the bilingual method inspired by the encouraging results of the experiments. H. N. L. Sastri of the methods Department Central Institute of English, Hyderabad conducted a similar experiment in a school in Hyderabad.

Objectives of the Bilingual Method -

1. Help the learner to speak fluently and accurately in the target language.
2. Prepare the learner in such a manner that she can achieve true bilingualism.

Principle of Bilingual Method:

1. In bilingual method to make use of mother tongue is to convey the meaning of words, sentences and idioms to the learners. As the meaning of words, sentences, idioms can be best made clear in mother tongue. They may remain without the help of mother tongue.

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2. The use of ~~of~~ mother tongue saves the teacher from creating situations for making the meaning of English sentences and words clear to the students. He is not required to build situations for this purpose.

3. The time saved from creating situations for teaching sentences and words of a foreign language can be used for giving more pattern practice to the students.

In bilingual method its use is restricted to clarify the meaning of English sentences and words. In translation method the mother tongue is used to paint dark shades. In bilingual, there is a touch of the lighter shades of the mother tongue.