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Name - Chandan Kumar Gupta

Designation - Assistant Professor

College - T.N.A.T.T.C. Harigaon Ara

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Bilingual Method

Advantages of Bilingual Method

Some of the advantages claimed on behalf of the bilingual method are as follow:

1. Ensures Accuracy:-

The meaning of English sentences and words given in mother tongue become clear to students. The meanings of English sentence and word become clear to the students. When the meanings of new words are told in mother tongue of the students. It becomes easier for them and this bilingual method of teaching English leads to accuracy.

2. Ensures Fluency:-

In this method like in direct method the students are given a lot of practice in speaking English. The students taught through translation method are very poor in spoken English.

The students taught through bilingual method are more fluent in speaking English than the students taught through direct method or translation method. This has been shown by the experiments in bilingual method at Central Institute of English and Foreign Language Hyderabad. The students taught English through bilingual method were not only more fluent in spoken English, they also had higher score in English than that of the students who were taught through direct method.

3. Bilingual Method Saves time:-

By this method the teacher is saved the botheration of manœuvring situation in order to convey the meaning in English only. Instead he gives the meaning in the mother tongue of the students. Thus time is saved to provide pattern practice to the students.

4. Bilingual Method suits an average teacher:-

Since the teachers are at ease to create atmosphere and convey meaning of words and phrases in students mother tongue, even an average teacher can teach successfully through his method.

5. Bilingual method is less costly:-

Bilingual method needs little equipment and is suited to all types of schools rural and urban. Hence this method is less costly than that of Direct Method which needs a lot of illustrative material for creating situation.

Limitations:-

The following are the main disadvantages of this method:

1. May Create Muddle:-

Many teachers are not well versed with the features of students mother tongue and the foreign language. They are likely to create a muddle.

2. May Confuse the students:-

A contrast between the features of two languages English and mother tongue, is likely to confuse the students.

3. May degenerate into Translation Method:-

If the English teacher fails to handle bilingual method properly, it may degenerate into translation method.

4. Not useful at Higher Secondary Stage:-

Bilingual Method is useful at lower secondary stage. The direct method is most useful than the bilingual method to explain meanings of words at the higher secondary stage. The students who have been taught with the direct method have mastered sufficient defining vocabulary in English at the higher secondary stage.