



Tikrit University

College of Education for Women

English Department

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The Direct method

The direct method of teaching was developed as a response to the Grammar-Translation method. It sought to immerse the learner in the same way as when a first language is learnt. All teaching is done in the target language, grammar is taught inductively, there is a focus on speaking and listening, and only useful 'everyday' language is taught. The weakness in the Direct Method is its assumption that a second language can be learnt in exactly the same way as a first, when in fact the conditions under which a second language is learnt are very different. The teacher explains new vocabulary using realia, visual aids or demonstrations.

The direct method of teaching, which is sometimes called the natural method, and is often (but not exclusively) used in teaching foreign languages, refrains from using the learners' native language and uses only the target language.

In practice it stood for the following principles and procedures

1-Classroom instruction was conducted exclusively in the target language

2-Only everyday vocabulary and sentences were taught

3-Oral communication skills were built up in a carefully graded progression organized around question-and-answer exchanges between teachers and students in small, intensive classes

4-Grammar was taught inductively .

5-New teaching points were introduced orally .

6-Concrete vocabulary was taught through demonstration, objects, and pictures; abstract vocabulary was taught by association of ideas

7-Both speech and listening comprehension were taught .

8-Correct pronunciation and grammar were emphasized .

The Direct Method in language teaching emphasizes the use of the target language in the classroom and focuses on teaching language through context, meaning, and real-life situations rather than through

translation or grammar rules. Here are some implications of the Direct Method:

Immersion in the Target Language: The Direct Method implies .1 that the target language is the medium of instruction in the classroom. Students are exposed to the language through listening and speaking activities from the beginning, which aims to create an immersive language learning environment.

Focus on Oral Communication: The Direct Method places a strong .2 emphasis on oral communication skills. Students engage in a variety of speaking activities, such as dialogues, role-plays, and discussions, to practice using the language in meaningful contexts.

Use of Real-life Situations: Lessons and activities are designed to .3 simulate real-life communication situations that learners might encounter outside the classroom. This helps make language learning more relevant and practical for students.

Contextual Learning: Language is taught in context, with new .4 vocabulary and grammatical structures introduced through meaningful situations rather than isolated drills or exercises. This approach aims to promote better retention and understanding of the language.

Interactive Teaching Methods: The Direct Method encourages .5 interactive teaching methods, such as demonstration, modeling, and guided practice. Teachers act as facilitators, providing language input and scaffolding to support students' language development.

Grammar in Context: Grammar is taught implicitly through .6 exposure to authentic language use rather than through explicit grammar instruction. Students learn grammar rules and patterns by observing and analyzing how language is used in context.

Use of Visual Aids and Gestures: Visual aids, realia (real objects), .7 and gestures are often used to support comprehension and reinforce meaning in the Direct Method. These aids help make the

language input more comprehensible and memorable for students.

Error Correction: Errors are viewed as a natural part of the .8 learning process in the Direct Method. Teachers provide immediate and constructive feedback to help students correct errors and improve their language accuracy and fluency.

Cultural Awareness: The Direct Method encourages the .9 integration of cultural elements into language teaching to help students better understand the cultural context in which the language is used.

Student-Centered Learning: While the teacher plays an .10 active role in facilitating learning, the Direct Method promotes student-centered learning by encouraging active participation, collaboration, and exploration of the language through authentic communication tasks.