



METHODS OF LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract: *A highly competitive environment is forcing foreign language schools to invent more and more differences in their teaching approaches. If twenty years ago teachers were required to simply know the language well, today students are aware of the existence of methods. For example, you must have heard of the communicative approach. The approach describes the general idea, say: "A person acquires a language if he uses it for communication." After the appearance of an approach, as a rule, it takes several decades before it is possible to develop an optimal set of methods - a "methodology".*

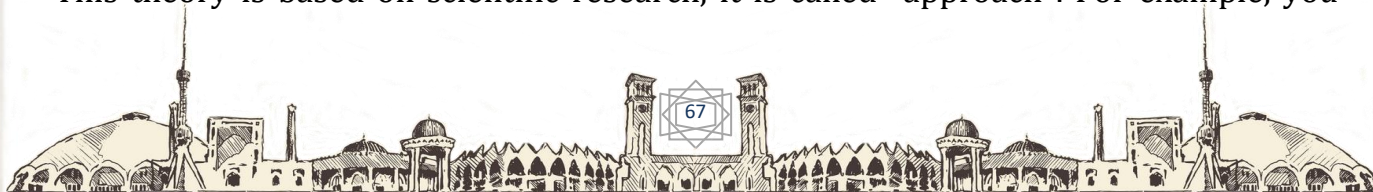
Key words : *and phrases: methods, "dead languages", grammar, spoken language, linguistic method, phonogram, audiovisual method, hypnopedia, communicative method, IELTS, TOEFL, self-study, course learning.*

Аннотация: *Высокая конкурентная среда заставляет школы иностранных языков изобретать все больше различий в своих подходах к преподаванию. Если лет двадцать назад от учителей требовалось просто хорошо знать язык, то сегодня ученики осведомлены о существовании методик. Например, вы наверняка слышали о коммуникативном подходе. Подход описывает общую идею, скажем: «Человек усваивает язык, если использует его для коммуникации». После появления подхода, как правило, проходит несколько десятилетий, прежде чем удастся выработать оптимальный набор методов - «методику».*

Ключевые слова: *и фразы: методы, «мертвые языки», грамматика, разговорный язык, лингвистический метод, фонограмма, аудиовизуальный метод, гипнопедия, коммуникативный метод, IELTS, TOEFL, самообучение, обучение на курсах.*

A highly competitive environment is forcing foreign language schools to invent more and more differences in their teaching approaches. If twenty years ago teachers were required to simply know the language well, today students are aware of the existence of methods. Unfortunately, understanding the pros and cons of different pedagogical approaches is quite difficult, which gives marketing departments unlimited scope for creativity.

First comes the pedagogical theory of how a person learns a foreign language. This theory is based on scientific research, it is called "approach". For example, you





must have heard of the communicative approach. The approach describes the general idea, say: "A person acquires a language if he uses it for communication." Then there are "methods" - practical instructions that tell how to teach and learn in order to implement a certain approach. For example, you need to apply the learned rules in conversational practice, play situations from real life, etc. After the appearance of an approach, as a rule, it takes several decades before it is possible to develop an optimal set of methods - a "methodology".

If we turn to history, then the methods of teaching foreign languages were formed with the expectation of learning Latin and Greek. Since these are "dead languages", they were taught mainly in the format of reading and translation. Therefore, by the middle of the 20th century, the main method of learning foreign languages remained:

Grammar-translational method. The focus of this method was on mastery of grammar and vocabulary. This method helped to master grammar at a good level, and also developed reading and translation skills. However, students got used to thinking only in grammatical constructions, besides, they missed the most important skill - spoken language.

Understanding the imperfection of this technique appeared in the middle of the 20th century, and then a wide variety of techniques began to appear.

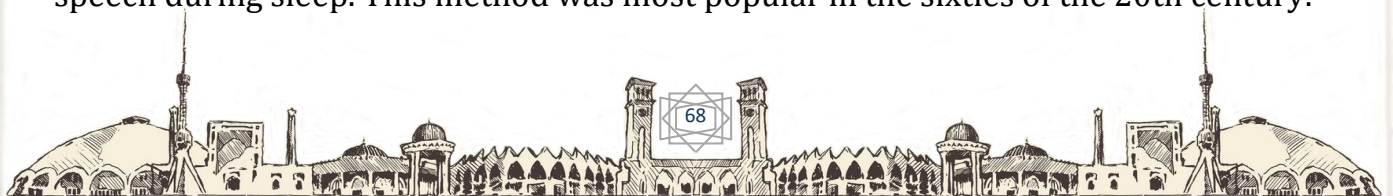
Direct teaching method. He offered to demonstrate the meanings of foreign words to students with the help of facial expressions, gestures, actions and various objects. So, for example, squares of different colors could be used to designate each letter, etc. The native language did not participate in the educational process at all, that is, the students did not translate from a foreign language into their native language and vice versa.

Physical response method. "Total-physical response" was based on the fact that in the early stages of learning, students were not required to speak. At first, it was proposed to absorb knowledge, read, listen to foreign speech. At the next stage, it was necessary to react to what was heard or read only by action. Only then did the students begin to speak.

Immersion method. "Sugesto pedia" offered students to try on the role of another person for the period of study: choose a new name for themselves, come up with a biography. It was believed that this method allows you to relax and feel as comfortable as possible.

Audio linguistic method. "Audio-lingual method" offered the student to repeat what was said many times after the teacher or the phonogram. And only at the next stage of training, the student was allowed to start speaking phrases on his own.

Audiovisual method. It assumed the active use of audio and video teaching aids (filmstrips, films) and technical means (tape recorder, radio, television). Much attention was paid to listening and speaking. Sleep learning method (hypnopedia). The authors of this method were based on the ability of a person to perceive sounds and speech during sleep. This method was most popular in the sixties of the 20th century.





Communicative method. The purpose of which was to teach communication in the language and colloquial speech, is widely used today. This method has been greatly improved and now combines many ways of teaching foreign languages. One of the most costly methods, not available to everyone, can be called the full immersion method. For the duration of the educational process, students live in a special boarding house, where all teachers and even all service personnel are native speakers of the language being studied.

The communicative approach has been known since the late 60s. Over the past decades, the technique has been refined and improved, and its effectiveness has been scientifically proven in a study of more than one generation. It became the basis for almost all English language courses from Western publishers like Oxford University Press, Macmillan, Cambridge University Press, and also determined the format of well-known international English language proficiency exams such as IELTS and TOEFL.

An interesting feature of the communicative methodology, which once again confirms its success: with the development of pedagogy over the past decades, new approaches have appeared, but all of them supplement and clarify rather than refute the communicative approach.

Perhaps the most common complementary technique today is self-study. You yourself know a lot of sites and applications that can solve seemingly any learning problems: give you new words, explain grammar rules, offer a lot of practice exercises, organize a chat with other students, record your pronunciation sample and much more. Tasks in such systems are organized as short segments that you quickly complete by receiving a reward (points or level). Reward creates a pleasant effect on our brain, and we want to perform new tasks. Unfortunately, despite the apparent thoughtfulness in practice, this method still does not give such an increase in knowledge as working with a teacher. However, it is invaluable for homework, for revision, and simply as a way to ensure you have more frequent contact with the language you are learning.

Self-study - this method involves learning from self-study books. It can be printed materials, as well as audio or video materials. Such a method requires strict self-discipline of the ability to independently assess the results achieved.

Courses. Foreign language courses are now available in any city. This method of learning can be very effective, because the student is engaged with a professional teacher who works out the teaching methodology, monitors the progress of the learning process, and can point out mistakes to the student in time. However, the effectiveness of this method of learning directly depends on the correct choice of courses. What matters is the number of students in the group, the duration of the course, the professionalism and qualifications of the teaching staff. If the language courses are chosen correctly, then the results from the training will be high.





It is worth noting that the best option for learning a foreign language is a combination of several methods. When studying in courses, it is best to reinforce the effect through self-study, reading books and watching films in a foreign language.

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