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COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL AND INNOVATIVE METHODS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract: Language teaching has developed significantly over the years, moving from traditional teacher-centered approaches to innovative, learner-centered methods. This article explores the main characteristics, benefits, and drawbacks of both traditional and modern teaching methods, and emphasizes how a balanced combination can enhance language acquisition.
Keywords: Traditional methods, Innovative methods, Language teaching, Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Task-Based Learning, Blended learning, Grammar-Translation Method, Direct Method, Audio-Lingual Method, Language acquisition, Learner-centered approach, Teacher-centered approach.

Teaching a language effectively requires understanding the needs of learners and choosing appropriate methods. Traditional methods, such as the Grammar-Translation Method and the Direct Method, have dominated classrooms for ten years. However, with technological advances and pedagogical research, innovative methods such as Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Task-Based Learning, and blended learning have gained popularity. Comparing these approaches helps teachers make informed decisions and enhance language learning purposes. There are several methods which are related to traditional ways of teaching such as "Grammar-translation method", "direct method", and "Audio lingual method". These paper investigates several types of traditional and innovative methods in the main part.

The *Grammar-Translation Method* primarily focuses on developing reading and writing skills. It emphasizes learning grammar rules and memorizing vocabulary, with the teacher at the center of the classroom while students take a more passive role. This method provides a solid grammatical foundation, which is one of its main benefits. However, it has notable disadvantages, including limited opportunities for speaking and listening practice, making it less engaging for learners. Elmayantie says that the danger with Grammar Translation, in other words, it teaches the students about language but does not really help the students to communicative effectively with it.[15;123].

The *Direct Method* motivates students to speak exclusively in the target language. Vocabulary is taught through demonstration and interactive communication rather than translation. This approach effectively enhances oral skills and listening comprehension. However, it places less emphasis on grammar, which can make it hard for beginners to learn the language fully. Skidmore explorers that "Teaching a foreign language as far as

possible after the manner in which a child would learn it in the foreign country." The only difficulty lies in the varying interpretations of the word possible. Some advocates of the direct method say: "it teaches the language not merely about the language" . . . . "not the dead letter but the living wor[16;24].

The *Audio-Lingual Method* is derived from repetition and structured drills. It helps students improve correct pronunciation and automatic language responses, making it effective for reinforcing patterns.According to Mart "The goal of the AudioLingual method is, via teaching vocabulary and grammatical patterns through dialogues, to enable students to respond quickly and accurately in spoken language"[17;61]. However, this method can become monotonous and does not encourage creative or spontaneous use of the language.

As opposed to traditional ways of teaching, several innovative methods are used in education which enhance the students knowledge rapidly. The grammatical material includes theoretical and practical parts on the topic "Verb". The acquisition of lexical and grammatical material is evaluated by digital testing with the output of the results of the students'mastering of the studied material on display[1; 20]. Some of them explored in this thesis with exact examples. Nowadays "Communicative language teaching", "Communicative language teaching (CLT**)"**, and "Task-Based language learning" are used commonly in the teaching process. All of them serve to enhance language learning skills such as listening, reading, writing and speaking. It is explained step by step in this thesis:

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) emphasizes meaningful communication in real-life contexts. This learner-centered approach encourages interaction and collaboration among students, helping to booster speaking, listening, and problem-solving skills. However, if not carefully balanced, it may sometimes neglect grammar competency. Traditional methods, which are grammar-translation and direct instruction, place significant stress on rote learning and formal correctness, normally at the cost of communicative competence. In contrast, their more modern counterparts, among them CLT, TBL and technology-enhanced instruction, focus primarily on the three principles of interaction, real-world applicability, and learner autonomy[6;5].

Task-Based Language Learning involves acquiring language skills by completing meaningful tasks, such as role-plays or projects. This approach actively engages students and encourages practical use of the language. However, it requires careful planning and can take more class time to implement effectively.

Blended and Technology-Enhanced Learning combines traditional face-to-face teaching with online resources, apps, and multimedia tools. This approach is flexible, interactive, and adaptable to various learning styles, making lessons more engaging. However, it requires reliable access to technology and may necessitate additional teacher training for effective implementation. The teaching activity has changed with the internet or devices such as computers, smartphones, and tablets. It is now possible to utilise other forms of education and different means of learning, which allow technology to focus on

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education towards teamwork, the critical capacity of students, and the learning of values. We discover everything that puts us within our reach[10;6]. Use of modern technologies, such as computers, Internet-resources, special educational multimedia programs, as well as modern technical equipment allows to optimize the teaching process[3;372].

Comparison

Feature	Traditional Methods	Innovative Methods
Focus	Grammar, accuracy	Communication, fluency
Teacher Role	Center of learning	Facilitator/Guide
Student Role	Passive learner	Active participant
Materials	Textbooks, drills	Multimedia, authentic materials
Interaction	Limited	High, collaborative
Engagement	Low to moderate	High

Conclusion

Both traditional and innovative approaches have unique advantages and limitations. Traditional methods promote a solid grammatical foundation and structure, while innovative methods provide real-life communication, creativity, and learner engagement. Students can develop balanced language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening by combining elements from both approaches in language teaching.

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