

The Direct Method

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The Direct Method

- Started as a reaction to the Grammar-Translation Method because very few people were learning to speak a language
- Speaking became more important as trade flourished in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The Direct Method

- ◉ Some innovators:

- ◉ Marcel-The importance of meaning

- ◉ Prendergast-The idea of a structural syllabus

- ◉ Gouin-From observing children learning their first language, thought people should learn a second language from using it.

The Direct Method

- Also known as the Gouin Method
- Also known as the Berlitz Method
- Also known as the Natural Method
- Put the recent ideas of linguistic science in the classroom

The Direct Method

- The use of realia
- No translation
- Reading from the beginning
- Students make a connection between form and meaning

The Direct Method

- Grammar is taught inductively
- Pronunciation and reading from the beginning
- Reading developed through speaking
- Self-correction

The Direct Method

- ◉ The purpose of language learning is communication
- ◉ Students think in the target language as soon as possible
- ◉ Often a question-answer session

The Direct Method

- The syllabus is based on situations
- Led to the Situational Approach popular in the UK during the ALM era

The Direct Method

#1

- 1. What are the goals of teachers who use this method?
- Students learn how to communicate in the target language

The Direct Method

#2

- 2. What is the role of the teacher?
What is the role of the students?
- The teacher and the students are more like partners

The Direct Method

#3

- ◉ 3 What are some characteristics of the teaching/learning process?
 - ◉ Students speak in the target language as if they were in the actual situations
 - ◉ Students associate meaning with the target language directly
 - ◉ Syllabus based on situations

The Direct Method

#4

- 4 What is the nature of student-teacher interaction? What is the nature of student-student interaction?
- Teacher-directed, but often teacher to students and students to teacher

The Direct Method

#5

- ⑤ How are the feelings of the students dealt with?
- ⑤ This is not considered in this method.

The Direct Method

#6

- 6 How is language viewed? How is culture viewed?
- Language is primarily spoken; everyday speech

The Direct Method

#7

- 7 What areas of language are emphasized? What language skills are emphasized?
- Vocabulary over grammar.
- Communication is basic
- Pronunciation taught from the start.

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#8

- ◉ #8 What is the role of the students' native language?
- ◉ Not to be used in the classroom

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#9

- 9 How is evaluation accomplished?
- Students are asked to use the language

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#10

- 10 How does the teacher respond to student errors?
- Students are encouraged by the teacher to self-correct

The Direct Method

• Criticisms

- Required native speakers

- Oversimplified the differences between 'natural' (first language acquisition) and the classroom environment

- Needed highly-skilled teachers

The Direct Method

- Criticisms

- Counterproductive/inefficient in the strict forbidding of the native language

- Lacked a thorough methodological basis