



TRANSFORMING LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS: A CRITICAL SHIFT FROM TRADITIONAL TO MODERN METHODOLOGIES

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the main stages of using traditional and modern methods in teaching foreign languages, their advantages and impact on the educational process. Scientific views on the compatibility and effectiveness of methods are highlighted.

Teaching method refers to the general principles, pedagogical approaches and management strategies used in the teaching process. The choice of teaching method depends on a number of factors: the teacher's pedagogical philosophy, the demographic composition of the class, the subject area being taught, and the mission of the educational institution.

The integration of traditional and modern methods in foreign language teaching has been a central topic of pedagogical research for several decades. Traditional approaches, such as the Grammar-Translation Method and the Audio-Lingual Method, emphasize accuracy, structural competence, and repeated practice. According to Richards and Rodgers¹, these methods played a foundational role in shaping the early stages of language pedagogy by focusing on rule-based learning and habit formation. However, despite their limitations—such as limited communicative opportunities—they continue to provide strong support for grammar acquisition and controlled language production².

In contrast, modern communicative and student-centered approaches focus on interaction, meaning-making, and real-life language use. The Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) framework, for example, promotes authentic communication and emphasizes fluency alongside accuracy. As noted by Littlewood³, communicative methodologies create opportunities for learners to negotiate meaning, thereby enhancing both linguistic and pragmatic competence. Additionally, Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) encourages learners to perform meaningful tasks that simulate real-world communication, which strengthens cognitive processing and learner autonomy.

Recent studies emphasize that the most effective pedagogy often combines elements from both traditional and modern approaches. Brown argues that an integrated approach allows teachers to

¹ Richards, J. C., & Rodgers, T. S. *Approaches and methods in language teaching* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press, 2001.

² Larsen-Freeman, D. *Techniques and principles in language teaching* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press, 2000.

³ Littlewood, W. *Communicative language teaching: An introduction*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

balance explicit grammar instruction with communicative practice, ensuring a more holistic learning experience. Likewise, Harmer⁴ highlights that modern classrooms benefit from the flexibility to use traditional drills for accuracy while employing communicative and technological tools—such as digital platforms, multimedia, and interactive apps—for motivation and fluency development.

Educational theories are mainly divided into two large categories - teacher-centered and student-centered approaches.

The use of traditional and modern methods is one of the most important areas of foreign language teaching, and both approaches serve to form different competencies in students. Traditional methods strengthen the structural aspects of the language being studied through grammatical knowledge, writing skills, and translation-based exercises. These methods help to master the basic system of the language, relying more on regularity, discipline, and consistency. Teaching methods include general principles, pedagogical approaches, and management strategies used in the educational process. The choice of teaching method depends on the teacher's pedagogical philosophy, the demographic characteristics of the class, the subject area, and the mission of the educational institution. Educational theories are mainly divided into two types - teacher-centered and student-centered approaches. The cooperative learning model promotes the work of students in groups as a basic principle. This approach serves to develop students' academic development and social skills. This type of teaching is considered a student-centered approach, since in it students are fully responsible for their learning process and learning outcomes.

Modern methods, on the other hand, involve communication, creativity, collaborative learning, and extensive use of technology. Methods such as multimedia, online platforms, and project-based learning develop students' communicative competence, independent thinking, and language skills in real-life situations. Work with the “Talk to Me” e-learning program was carried out in a language laboratory equipped with computers.

Aspect	Traditional Methods (Grammar– Translation, Audio-Lingual)	Modern Methods (CLT, TBLT, Constructivist Approaches)
Teaching focus	Grammar rules, vocabulary lists, translation	Communication, meaning, interaction
Teacher’s role	Knowledge giver, dominant, instructor	Facilitator, guide, co-communicator
Student’s role	Passive listener, memorizer	Active participant, problem-solver
Language skills	Reading and writing emphasized	All four skills integrated, especially speaking & listening
Classroom activities	Drills, repetition, translation exercises	Role-plays, group tasks, discussions, projects
Error correction	Immediate correction; accuracy first	Delayed correction; fluency and meaning first
Use of native language (L1)	Frequent use of L1 for explanations	Minimal use of L1; target language as medium
Learning materials	Textbooks, grammar exercises	Authentic materials (videos, podcasts, real texts)
Assessment	Tests focused on grammar and vocabulary	Performance-based assessment (tasks, presentations)
Learning environment	Teacher-centered, controlled	Student-centered, collaborative, interactive
Learning outcomes	Strong grammar knowledge, limited speaking fluency	Functional communication, real-world language use

⁴ Harmer, J. *The practice of English language teaching* (5th ed.). Pearson Longman, 2015.

“Talk to Me” is an interactive computer course for learning foreign languages, developed by the French company Auralog.

The combination of traditional and modern approaches increases the effectiveness of the learning process, as they complement each other: traditional methods are the foundation, while modern methods provide the opportunity for practical application. The purposeful use of both methods in the lesson enhances students' motivation to learn the language and serves to comprehensively form the four main language skills.

Thus, the integration of traditional and modern methods in teaching a foreign language is the most important factor in organizing an effective learning process that meets the requirements of modern education. The teacher's correct selection of methods and their appropriate use significantly increases the overall language competence of students.

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