

Ministry of Higher Education
Methods of Teaching by Dr. Abdullah M. Naif

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Methods of Teaching

Fourth Stage

By

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The Grammar Translation Method

The Grammar-Translation Method was called *the Classical Method* since it was first used in the teaching of the classical languages, Latin and Greek.

Q/ What is the purpose of the Grammar-Translation Method?

A/ This method was used for the purpose of:

- helping students to *read and appreciate foreign language literature*.
- By studying the grammar of the target language, *students would become more familiar with the grammar of their native language*.

The Principles of the Grammar Translation Method

1. **Reading literature:** learning a foreign language is to be able to *read literature*. *Literary language* is superior to *spoken language*. The target *culture* is limited to its *literature and fine arts*.
2. **Translation:** An important goal is for students to be able *to translate each language into the other*.
3. **Using native language:** The ability to communicate in the target language is not a goal of foreign language instruction.
4. **Reading and writing are more important than speaking and listening :** The *primary skills* to be developed are reading and writing. Little attention is given to speaking and listening and almost *none to pronunciation*.
5. **The role of the teacher:** The teacher is the *authority* in the classroom. It is very important that students get the correct answer.
6. **Similarities between languages:** Learning is facilitated through attention to similarities between the target language and the native language.
7. **Grammar is emphasized:** It is important for students to learn about the grammar or form of the target language.
8. **Deductive learning (from specific to more general):** *Deductive application of an explicit grammar rule* is a useful pedagogical technique.