

A Retrospective Research on the Place of Grammar for the Future of Language Education

1

DÖNERCAN DÖNÜK
MERSIN UNIVERSITY
TURKIYE
candonuk@gmail.com

Structure of the Speech

2

- Definition of grammar
- A retrospective view
- The place of grammar in methodology
- Grammar yesterday- today- tomorrow
- Conclusion

An early grammar by Dionysius (BC)

3

- emphasized the connection between grammar and literature.
- identified and defined eight parts of speech in Greek.
(Robins, 1997; cited in Fotos, 2005)

An early grammar by Cobett (1819)

4

Grammar teaches us how to make use of words; that is to say, it teaches us how to make use of them in the proper manner, as I used to teach you how to sow and plant the beds in the garden; for you could have thrown about seeds and stuck in plants of some sort or other, in some way or other, without any teaching of mine; and so can anybody, without rules or instructions, put masses of words upon paper; but to be able to choose the words which ought to be employed, and to place them where they ought to be placed, we must become acquainted with certain principles and rules; and these principles and rules constitute what is called grammar.

Let's think...

5

1. Is the grammar issue so important? Why has it been the dominant focus of composition research for the last seventy-five years?
2. What definitions of the word grammar are needed to articulate the issue intelligibly?
3. What do findings in cognate disciplines suggest about the value of formal grammar instruction?
4. What is our theory of language, and what does it predict about the value of formal instruction? (Hartwell, 1985)

Grammar and me

6

- As a student : sets of rules, discourse fragments
- As a teacher candidate : rules of grammar
- As a practitioner: TPR, ALM, CLT
- As an instructor: PCK

Foreign Language / Pedagogic Grammar

- The grammar that is formally and explicitly taught.
- Grammatical descriptions prepared for teaching and learning purposes as ‘pedagogic’ grammars

(Watkins, 2005).

Don't forget to...

8

- add “s” for third person singular.
- use V2 for Past Tense.
- add “the” if a noun is unique.
- use Present Perfect Tense for the events that started in the past and are still going on.

Grammar in methodology

9

- Two ends of the continuum
- the earlier methods heavily relied on direct grammar instruction.
- those depending on the theory of naturalistic principles proposed anchoring grammar to the unconscious mind of the learners.

Yesterday- Today- Tomorrow

10

- human learning on the agenda of the fundamental schools of thought in psychology
- approaches such as behaviourism, cognitivism and constructivism were adopted by language teaching methodology.
- true human interaction depends on the rules.

From traditional to contemporary

11

- Grammar has regained its lost prestige through the efforts of practitioners.
- Traditional lays the foundation for contemporary...

The unchanging fact is that grammar has always existed in

12

- course books
- multimedia
- flashcards
- task based materials
- games
- dictionaries

Nowadays,

13

- self-directed learning,
- discovery learning,
- digital materials provided by Web 2.0 tools
- materials created by AI
- corpus linguistics

Corpus Linguistics

14

- Using corpora is an effective tool in teaching vocabulary & grammar.
- It provides the concept of ‘pattern’ as an interface between lexis and grammar.
- Many applications beyond language description take place.
- It is a tool for lexicographers:
- Multi-million word corpora exist to examine word frequency, patterning and semantics for the actual use rather than intuition.

Through the concordance lines,

15

- it is possible to obtain the collocation forms the word collocates.
- it is possible to illustrate a wide range of prepositions, collocations and idiomatic usage as well as other instances. (O’Keefe et al., 2007)

Future projections

16

- grammar is a must for a true, flawless, and direct channel.
- digital learning must be reshaped so that teaching and learning within formal schooling could be based on a curriculum.

Thanks for listening

17

