

Translation in the Foreign Language Classroom

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Abstract

Is translation of any importance in the process of learning a foreign language?

This question has raised much debate lately and it has been argued a lot by scholars. Thus, two groups are established by the time.

The first group believes that translation is not a tool for learning a foreign language.

The other group, by contrast, emphasizes strongly the importance of translation in learning a foreign language.

Translation's situation is comparable to what has happened to the teaching of grammar. As regards some methods, 'grammar' is considered unnecessary, but in reality it has been restored, and its importance has now placed some restrictions and some conditions in how to use grammar which varies from what happens in the traditional methodology.

In the same way translation is readmitted in the foreign language classroom, but with certain conditions and certain reserves.

This paper will look at different methods of teaching a foreign language (grammar-translation method, direct method, audio-oral method, communicative method) and the place of translation in each of these methods. In the present situation of globalization and intercultural communication, the foreign language's student should be able to communicate in a foreign language with other speakers of this language, but at the same time he should be a mediator between people speaking different languages and cultures.

Therefore, that interpretation should be considered as a next important skill in learning a second language taking into account all programs of foreign language teaching. Despite susceptibility, translation has to consider translation as a necessary instrument for teaching and learning a L2. Researchers are usually reluctant to consider translation as another skill to be cultivated in itself.

For this purpose, we will give here a number of proposals how translation can be implemented in a program teaching a L2. Some of the exercises that can be used in a foreign language class will also be further explored.