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TEACHING LANGUAGE WITHOUT TRANSLATION FOR ADULT LEARNERS

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Abstract

In particular, this article covers the following: organic comprehension which is to absorb language directly without translation; This article examines how language is processed by our brains, the advantages of immersion, and methods for understanding meaning without the use of translation; Benefits of understanding without translation; Teaching a language without translation strategies.

Keywords: Context-Based Learning, Immersive Listening and Reading, native speakers, Monolingual Dictionaries.

Introduction

Language learning methods and techniques have become increasingly effective as well. Whereas earlier methods for relying on translation were considered effective, it has now been found that the methods of learning a particular language using another language without translation are also much higher. Deeper, more organic comprehension may be achieved by using a different strategy, which is to absorb language directly without translation. This article examines how language is processed by our brains, the advantages of immersion, and methods for understanding meaning without the use of translation.

When learning a language, the human brain is programmed to identify relationships, context, and patterns. Without using another language as a guide, infants learn their first language by connecting sounds to things, behaviors, and feelings. Monolingual comprehension is the term for this organic learning process, in which the learner comprehends words not through translation but by firsthand experience and context. However, Particularly, when it comes to avoiding translation in the foreign language classroom, teaching languages in varied contexts such as international schools present special difficulties. Although it would seem straightforward to translate from a familiar language, doing so might actually make it more difficult for pupils to grasp and learn the language. Without translation, we can consider the following advantages of language comprehension.



Benefits of understanding without translation

1. **Faster Thinking** – Learners become more fluent and react faster in conversations when they cease mentally interpreting every word.
2. **Stronger Memory Retention** – Recall and memory are improved when words are linked to actual events rather than translations.
3. **Improved Pronunciation and Intonation** – By focusing on how native speakers communicate rather than on word-for-word translations, learners develop a more authentic accent.
4. **Better Cultural Understanding** – Direct comprehension helps learners grasp cultural nuances that may be lost in translation.

However, on the other hand, learning a language without any translation can cause difficulties. In this case, the student may lose focus or may not want to learn a language they do not understand. This makes language learning even more challenging. To prevent such situations, the teacher needs to use appropriate methods and techniques. The following effective methods can be applied to achieve these goals.

One of the methods is Context-Based Learning which can help understand words through images, actions, or experiences helps bypass translation. For example, using flashcards with pictures instead of written translations reinforces direct comprehension. Context-based learning is a pedagogical methodology that, in all its disparate forms, centers on the belief that both the social context of the learning environment and the real, concrete context of knowing are pivotal to the acquisition and processing of knowledge. The approach is based on the firm conviction that learning is a social activity that is badly served by most classroom situations due to an inherent misrepresentation of how the mind acquires, processes, and produces knowledge. Learning is a communal activity centered on the interactions between persons with substantial interests and standard classroom structures that do not respond to this may well inhibit the success of learning. This not only expands students' thinking but also improves their memory.[1]

This method can be effective not only for young learners but also for adults. Since adults generally have a slightly lower ability to retain information compared to younger individuals, applying this method to them requires considering psychological aspects related to different life stages. Among distance learning students, there are many who are 30 years old or older. Several factors can hinder their language learning process, and these should be taken into account when teaching them a foreign language. However, language learning is not only dependent on age but also on the learner's interest and motivation.

As John Dewey, the American pragmatist, and Lev Vygotsky, the Russian psychologist said, From the former, context-based learning derives an overtly pragmatic commitment: learning is an activity bound up with human interests. Just as the standard of truth and knowledge in Dewey's deeper philosophical theory is their utility, a statement is true if it is useful, so must learning prepare the subject for social engagement. In response to his theoretical commitments, Dewey believed that education ought to be dominated by real-life tasks and challenges and that theory and facts were to be learned through activity, rather than the standard model of a passive student



receiving knowledge from an expert or superior. The latter thinker, Vygotsky, asserted that culture and the learner's immediate environment determine both how he or she thinks, that is, the processes of reasoning, and also the content of his or her thinking, that is, the elements of knowledge that are combined and used in the thinking process. [2]

Another way for learning language effectively without translation is Immersive Listening and Reading. Engaging with media such as movies, music, and books in the target language helps the brain associate meaning through context. Beginners can start with subtitles in the same language instead of their native tongue.

Thinking in the Target Language also one of the best ways improving language learning skills. Actively practicing thoughts in the target language reduces reliance on translation and helps build direct associations. To ensure that the student thinks only in the target language, at least during the lesson, an environment should be created for this, and authentic materials in the target language should be used.

In addition, inviting native speakers to the lessons and engaging in conversations with them in the target language can be highly effective. Students can strengthen their knowledge by listening to real native speakers and using imitation techniques. Interacting with native speakers forces the brain to process the language naturally without reverting to translation. This encourages spontaneous responses and real-world comprehension.

As dictionaries also important in learning languages student can use Monolingual Dictionaries. Instead of translating words into one's native language, using a dictionary that defines words in the same language builds comprehension through synonyms, explanations, and examples.

When using authentic materials in language teaching, it is also important to consider the type of learner. For example, some students learn quickly by listening, while others learn better by reading or visualizing. Learners can be categorized into the following types.

There are three different types of learners: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Each type learns best in a different way.

Visual learners learn best by seeing things. They like to have information written down or presented in a diagram or chart. Auditory learners learn best by hearing things. They prefer teachers who talk and use examples, and they like to have information read aloud to them. Kinesthetic learners learn best by doing things. They often have trouble sitting still in class, and they need hands-on activities to understand new concepts.[3]

However, it may not always be possible to work individually with each student. What can be done in such situations? Of course, it depends on the teacher's skills. In this case, it is essential to use each method effectively. Instead of relying on just one approach during the lesson, it would be beneficial to prepare tasks that cater to all three types of learners. In this process, the teacher must demonstrate their skills.

Both teaching and learning a language require effort. However, if a person has the determination and motivation to achieve their goal, they will be able to overcome any difficulties. Understanding a language without translation is not just an advanced skill it's a method that can accelerate fluency, enhance comprehension, and deepen cultural appreciation. Learners can acquire a new language more naturally and intuitively by immersing themselves in it and using direct comprehension techniques.

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