

What do you understand by Bilingual method? Give its advantages & disadvantages. What are the advantages of this method?

Ans. Bilingual Method is completely a recent method invented by Prof. C. J. Dalton of Wales. He claims that this method is very effective in teaching a foreign language.

Philosophy behind the Method - When the child learns mother tongue, he connects the meaning of words with his own experience because he learns the mother-tongue in a real situation. In this way he grasps the situation or forms the concept in mind. As for example mother asks the child, Duddh Peeo (Drink milk) seeing the milk itself the child learns that this thing is called dudh (milk), thus, he learns calling milk as 'Dudh' and forms the concept of Milk in his mind.

Now it will be a waste of time to create that situation again before the child when we are teaching him a foreign language, because the child has already experienced the situation while learning mother-tongue.

March 2015							April 2015							
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Characteristics of Bilingual Method-

This method is a unique method which is a mid-way between two old methods - Translation-Cum-Grammar method and Direct method.

The main characteristics of this method are

- (i) Sentence is the unit of teaching.
- (ii) Rigorous practice is done in sentence pattern.
- (iii) It emphasises on creating situations not exactly like Direct method. Here situations are created just by giving the mother-tongue equivalents of English words.
- (iv) It commands use of mother-tongue not exactly like Translation Cum Grammar method. In this method
- (v) Mother-tongue is only used during early stages. Gradually, it can be dropped as students advance in learning.
- (vi) Mother-tongue is only used ~~during~~ ~~early stages~~ to explain the ^{What to do} meaning of words, phrases, idiom, sentences and grammatical points and rules.



You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative and independence.

- (2) Word-for-word translation is not done. This type of translations is called interpretation by Dodson.
- (4) Translations are only done by the teacher not by the students to explain the matter.
- (5) After explanation, practice is done without the help of the mother tongue. Merits:

Merits or advantages of Bilingual method.

- (i) This method promotes both fluency and accuracy in English.
- (ii) Unlike ^{the} direct method which ignores the linguistic habits already acquired by the pupils in the process of learning their mother tongue, the Bilingual method makes use of them.
- (iii) The teacher is saved from the botheration of creating real situations in order to convey the meanings in English only. He gives the meanings in the mother tongue of the pupils.