

GRAMMAR TRANSLATION METHOD

What is Grammar Translation Method?

The grammar-translation method of foreign language teaching is one of the most traditional methods



It was originally used to teach “dead” languages (and literatures) such as Latin and Greek, involving little or no spoken communication or listening comprehension



Characteristics

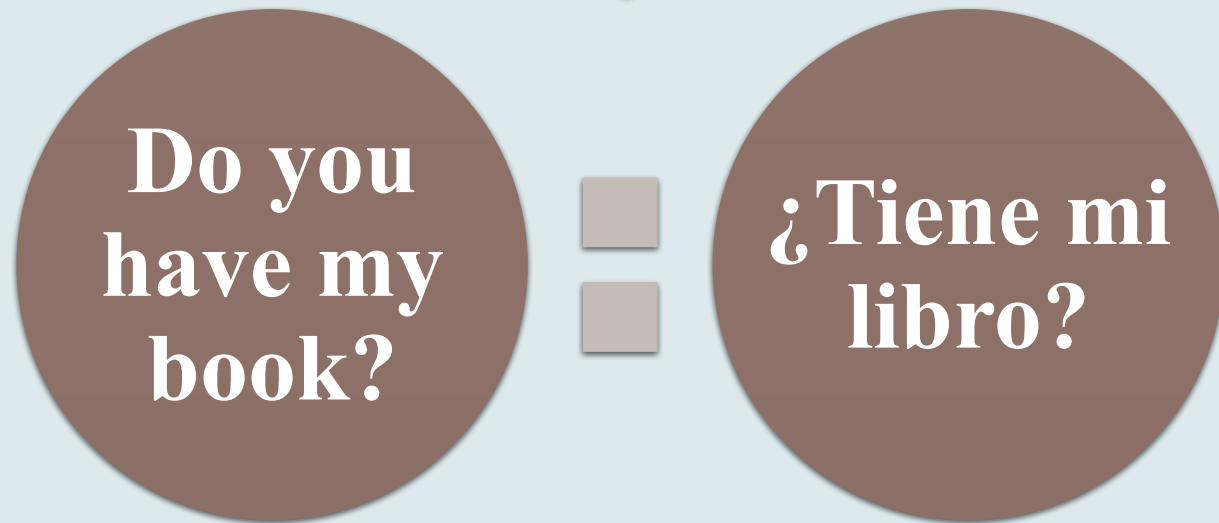
- ❖ A focus on learning the rules of grammar and their application in translation passages from one language into the other



- ❖ Vocabulary in the target language is learned through to direct translation from the native language, it is taught in the form of isolated word lists. e.g. with vocabulary tests such as:



- ❖ Grammar is taught with extensive explanations in the native language, and only later applied in the production of sentences through translation from one language to the other.



- ❖ Very little teaching is done in the target language. Instead, readings in the target language are translated directly and the discussed in the native language. Little or no attention is given to pronunciation.



Principles

Translating each language into each other is an important goal for learners

The authority in the classroom is the teacher

Its focus is on accuracy and not fluency

The primary skills to be improved are reading and writing



Literary language is superior to the spoken language

To be able to communicate with target language's speaker is not among the goals

Error correction: If a student's answer of a question is incorrect, the teacher selects a different student to give the correct answer or she/he replies herself/himself.

A class working with the Grammar Translation Method looks like this:

Classes are taught in the mother tongue, with little active use of the target language

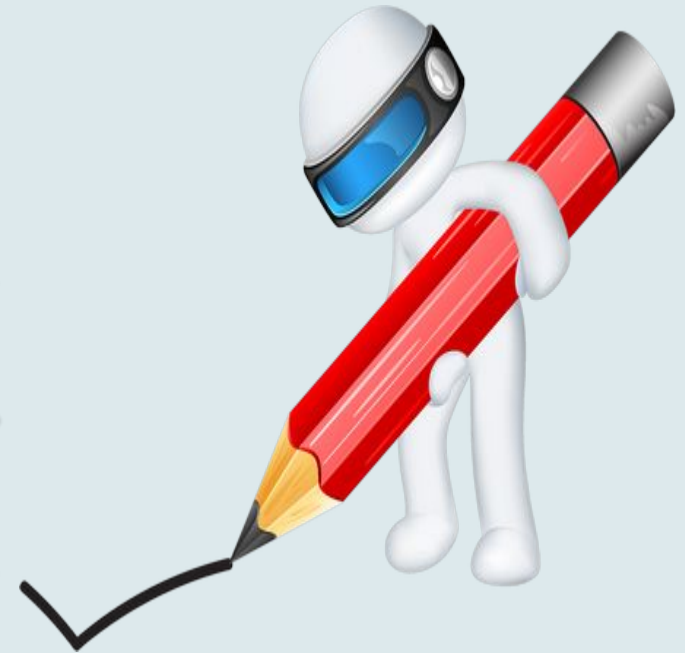
Much vocabulary is taught in the form of lists of isolated words

Long elaborate explanations of the intricacies of grammar are given

Reading of difficult classical texts is begun early

Little attention is paid to the content of texts, which are treated as exercises in grammatical analysis

Grammar provides the rule for putting words together, and instruction often focuses on the form, inflection of words



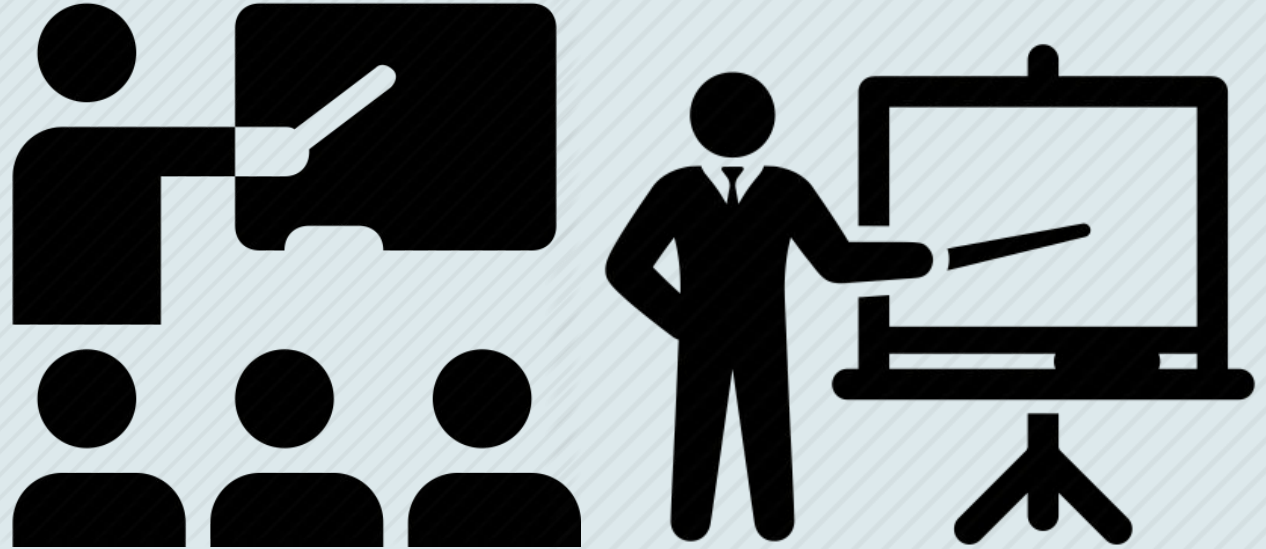
Disadvantages

This method gives people the wrong idea of what language is and of the relationship between languages. Language is seen as a collection of words which are isolated and independent



Worst effect of this method is on pupil's motivation. Because she/he cannot succeed – leads to frustration, boredom and indiscipline

It seemed there was no need for student's to master the four skills of English (listening, speaking, reading and writing)



The grammar-translation method is the easiest for a teacher to employ. It doesn't require teacher to speak good English or make good lesson preparations