Methods of Teaching English

Grammar–Translation Method----

The grammar–translation method is one of the important methods of teaching English. The method originated in the 1500s when Latin was extensively studied as a foreign language due to its importance in various fields like academia, business, etc. but the use of Latin gradually declined during the century, and it was substituted by English, and other European languages. Modern languages also appeared in school curricula in the 19th century and language teachers used the same grammar-translation method to teach the languages.

Principles of Grammar-Translation Method –

The following are the principles of grammar-translation method:

a. Emphasis is on reading and writing consequently;

b. L1 is used while teaching;

c. Learners learn grammar rules deductively;

d. Rote learning is encouraged;

Roger Ascham, Montaigne, Comenius and John Locke attempted to reform grammar-translation method. Later, Berlitz, Passy, Viëtor, and Jespersen shed light on the problems of grammar-translation method.

Merits of Grammar-Translation Method—

1. Both the teacher and the learner use L1 while teaching and learning respectively;

2. Translation of new words provides clear understanding to the learner;

Demerits of Grammar-Translation Method –

1. It does not improve the oral fluency in English;

2. It is tedious and uninteresting as the learners have to memorize words and rules.