

Although work on all four skills (*reading, writing, speaking, and listening*) occurs from the start, oral communication is seen as basic. *Pronunciation* also receives attention right from the beginning of a course.

5) *What is the role of the students' native language?*

The students' native language should not be used in the classroom.

6) *How is evaluation accomplished?*

Students are asked to use both *oral and written skills*. For example, the students might be interviewed orally by the teacher or might be asked to write a paragraph about something they have studied.

7) *How does the teacher respond to student errors?*

The teacher, employing various techniques, tries to get students to *selfcorrect* whenever possible.

The Techniques of the Direct Method

1. Reading Aloud

Students take turns reading sections of a passage, play, or dialogue out loud. At the end of each students turn, the teacher uses gestures, pictures, realia, examples, or other means to make the meaning of the section clear.

2. Question and Answer Exercise

This exercise is conducted only in the target language. Students are asked questions and answer in full sentences so that they practice new words and grammatical structures.

3. Getting Students to Self-correct

The teacher of this class has the students self-correct by:

- a. *repeating what a student has just said*, using a questioning voice to signal to the student that something was wrong with it or
- b. *repeating what the student said, stopping just before the error*. The student then knows that the next word was wrong.

4. Conversation Practice

The teacher asks students a number of questions in the target language, which they have to understand to be able to answer correctly. In the class we observed, the teacher asked individual students questions about themselves. The questions contained a particular grammar structure. Later, the students were able to ask each other their own questions using the same grammatical structure.

5. Fill-in-the-blanks Exercise

All the items are in the target language; furthermore, no explicit grammar rule would be applied. The students would have induced the grammar rule they need to fill in the blanks from examples and practice with earlier parts of the lesson.

6. Dictation

The teacher *reads the passage three times*. The *first* time the teacher reads it at a *normal speed*, while the students just listen. The *second* time he reads the *passage phrase by phrase*, pausing long enough to allow students to write down what they have heard. The *last* time the teacher again reads at a *normal speed*, and students check their work.

7. Map Drawing

The students were given a map with the geographical features unnamed. Then the teacher gave the students directions such as the following, 'Find the mountain range in the West. Write the words "Rocky Mountains" across the mountain range.'

8. Paragraph Writing

The teacher in this class asked the students to write a paragraph in their own words on the major geographical features of the United States.