

“Grammar Translation and direct approaches.”

Mohamed Elwardi Fadeli

02/04/2019

Differences between the Grammar Translation Approach and the Direct Approach

Because the grammar translation was a little older, it was mainly used by teachers who valued getting high-class -from a social perspective- students to pick morale and culture of other civilizations, as opposed to the direct approach, which had a somewhat broader audience.

Teachers from the grammar translation era were convinced there was no need for teaching students how to “interact” using the new language, and focused instead on **understanding** long passages of literature (and hopefully scientific) texts. Getting the culture hidden in those passages of text was the most important goal. However, as soon as people started to travel more and more, language teachers developed a desire to teach daily-life usage of the language instead.

In today’s world, techniques from the direct approach seem to be a little more popular outside of school and the ones from the grammar translation seem to dominate school-like programs.

My tendency when it comes to Grammar Translation vs. Direct approaches

I honestly have no tendency to a particular approach, and I think these approaches should be properly **scheduled** instead of relying on one and leaving the other: Start with techniques from the direct approach so learners can gain some momentum and feel a little confident in speaking the daily-life side of the language; only then you go after grammar rules and higher-level of text-comprehension.

I’m not a fan of blending approaches from the get go, but a certain blending of each approach techniques may prove useful once learners feel confident enough to translate small chunks of text from popular (from their perspective) books.