Audio-visual method of teaching a foreign language

Abstract

An audio-visual method of learning a foreign language, which can be practiced using a video projection screen with concomitant audio, or a television includes the steps of: showing the program (in a foreign language) in its original form; showing either a sequence of frozen scenes or a sequence of short program segments, each frozen scene or segment including a single statement by one of the program participants, along with a transcription and a translation of the statement; reshowing the program in its original form; reshowing the sequence of frozen scenes or short program segments, along with only a transcription of the associated statement; and reshowing the program in its original form. Statements by program participants may be shown as subtitles or as dialog balloons such as those used in comic books. Short program segments may end with a frozen frame, which includes the translation and/or transcription.

**Audio Visual Method**

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The audiovisual method was first developed by the CREDIF term in France in the 1950s. This method is intended for teaching everyday language at the early stage of second/foreign language learning. It was based on a behaviourist approach, which held that language is acquired by habit formation. Based on assumption that foreign language is basically a mechanical process and it is more effective if spoken form precedes written form. The stress was on oral proficiency and carefully- structured drill sequences (mimicry/memorisation) and the idea that quality and permanence of learning are in direct proportion to amount of practice carried out.

**The uses of audio-visual methods in teaching:**

1. Audio-visual methods in teaching strengthen an instructor’s verbal presentation

2. convey information mainly via sound and image instead of by text.

3. Students often benefit from the visual/sound appeal of audio-visual methods in teaching

**The Principle of Audio Visual Method**

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a. Selective

b. Preparation

c. Physical control

d. Proper Presentation

e. Response

**The Techniques in Audio Visual Method:**

1. The Lesson begins with the filmstrips and tape-presentation.

2. The materials are explained by the teacher through pointing, demonstrating, selective listening, question and answer.

3. The dialogue is repeated several times and memorized by frequent replays of tape-recording and filmstrips or by language laboratory practice.

4. Students are gradually emancipated by the filmstrip and tape-recorder.

**The Advantages**

a. The students are easy to understand the material because they are not only listen but also see the presentation.

b. The students are fluent in speaking.

c. Audio Visual Method enhance student learning and create a more inviting atmosphere.

**The Disadvantages**

a. Basic method of teaching is repetition.

b. Mechanical drills of early Audio-Visual approach is boring, mindless and counter productive.

c. Audio-Visual materials were open to same sort of misuse.

d. Audio Visual method doesn’t develop writing and reading skill.

e. New materials necessitated extensive use of equipment with all associated problems of black-out, extension leads, carrying tape-recorders from classroom to classroom.