Language Teaching as a Field of Applied Linguistics

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What is Applied Linguistics?

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- Using theoretical language knowledge to solve real-world language-related problems.

- **Includes fields like:**

Language teaching, translation, forensics, speech therapy, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics ….

Today's focus: Language teaching

Language teaching

Language teaching is the practical use of language knowledge (*grammar, syntax, phonetics* ...) to help learners improve their language skills (*listening, speaking, reading, writing*).

Why Language Teaching part of Applied Linguistics?

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- **Uses linguistic theory**: phonology, syntax, etc.

- **Solves real world problems**: Improves learners' reading, writing, listening, speaking

How is **language teaching** different from **teaching other subjects** (e.g., Mathematics, physics …)?
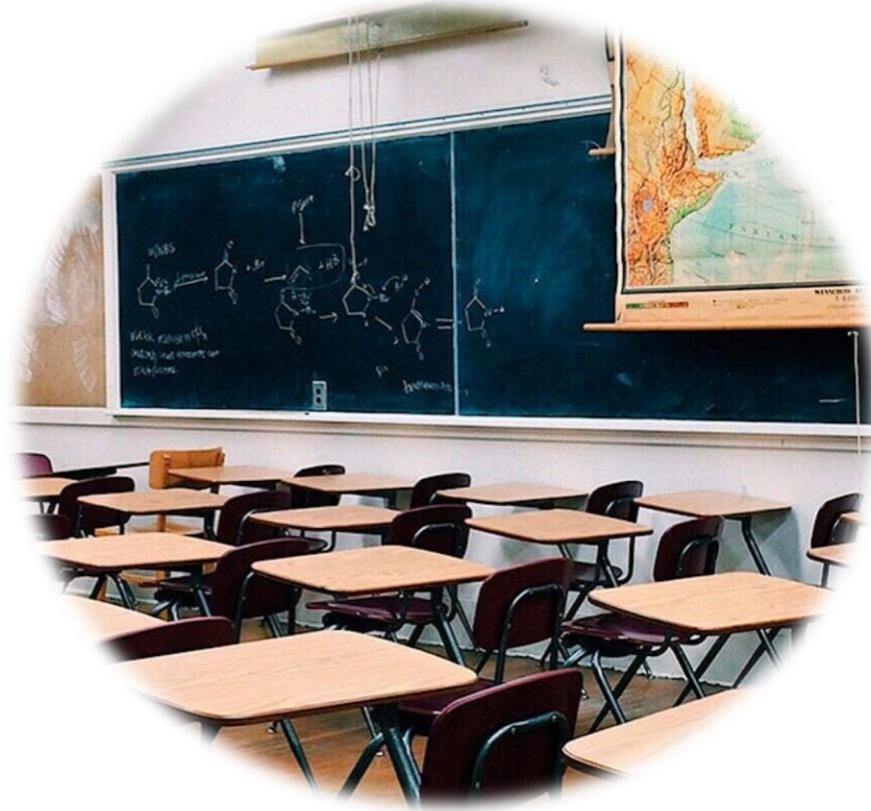
Characteristics of language teaching

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- All four skills are involved
- Language is both a subject and a tool (*We use language to teach language*)
- Language learning requires interaction and practice (*not just memorization*)
- Culture is important (e.g. *English customs & idioms*)

Language teaching approaches & methods

- Not all language classes are the same!
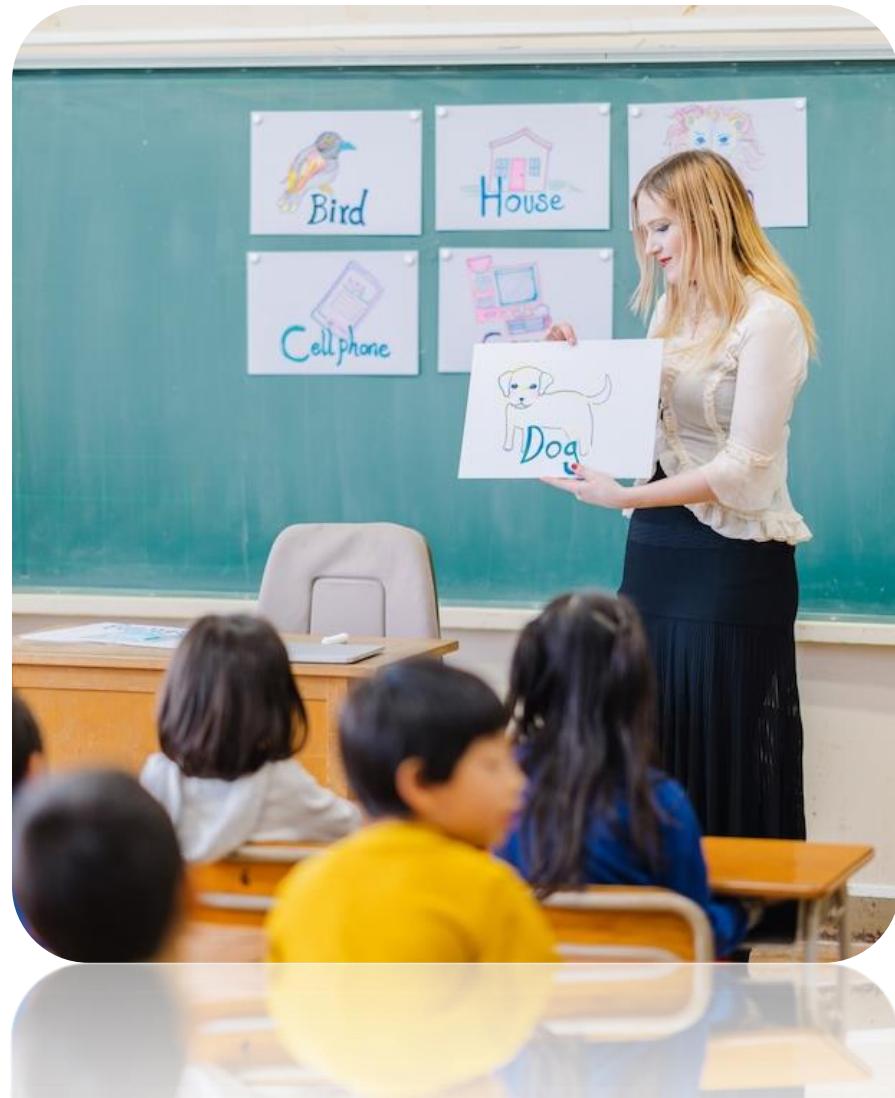
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- Languages teaching follows several approaches and methods that developed throughout the 20s century

Historical development

- Ancient: Grammar-Translation

- Early 1900s: Direct Method

- Mid 1900s: Audiolingual

- 1970s+: Communicative Approach

1. Grammar-Translation Method (GTM)

- Focus: grammar rules, translation exercises

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Example:
Translate follow sentence into English.

- Je vais au marché
- I am going to the market.

2. Direct Method

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Example:

Use visuals to teach vocabulary.

- Activity: Show picture of 'apple' and elicit word.

3. Audiolingual Method

- Focus: repetition (drilling), mimicry, focus on correct pronunciation

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Example:

Listen and repeat:

'She is eating.'
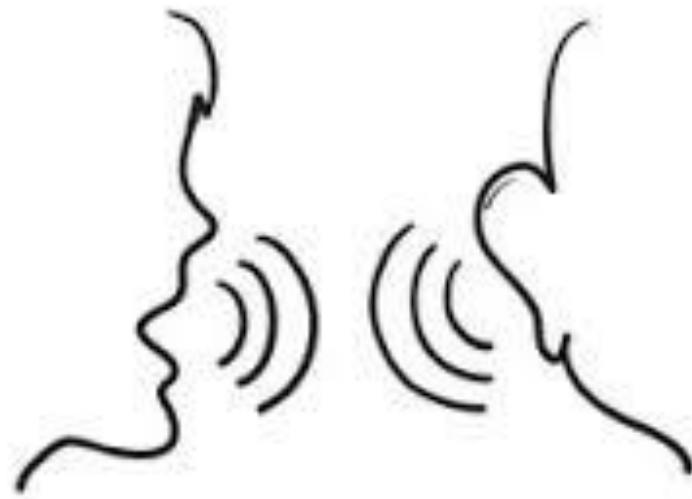
4. Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

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Example:

Role-play about

"**ordering food at a restaurant**"

5. Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT)

- Focus:

language through meaningful tasks

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Example:

Film a documentary about global warming (to learn vocabulary about nature in the process)

Which Method is Best?

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- No single best method.

- Depends on learners, context, and goals.

- Many teachers use an eclectic approach.

Final Reflection

- Which method do you prefer?

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- Which method do you prefer?

- What methods do your teachers use?