University Ziane Achour, Djelfa   **Master Two**

Faculty of Letters and Languages   **Language Approaches and Teaching Methods**

Department of Foreign Languages   **First Term**

English Division   **Didactics Students**

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What is an Approach, Method, Procedure and Technique ?

Approach

An approach refers to the general assumptions about what language is and about how learning a language occurs (Richards and Rodgers, 1986). It represents the sum of our philosophy about both the theory of language and the theory of learning. In other words, an approach to language teaching describes:

1. The nature of language,

2. How knowledge of a language is acquired,

3. And the conditions that promote language acquisition

Method

"A thousand teachers, a thousand methods." -Chinese Proverb-

A method is a practical implementation of an approach. A theory is put into practice at the level of a method. It includes decisions about:

 * The particular skills to be taught,

 * The roles of the teacher and the learner in language teaching and learning,

 * The appropriate procedures and techniques,

 * The content to be taught,

 And the order in which the content will be presented.It also involves a specific syllabus organization, choices of the materials that will boost learning, and the means to assess learners and evaluate teaching and learning. It is a sort of an organizing plan that relies on the philosophical premises of an approach.

Procedures

Jeremy Harmer (2001) describes 'procedures' as "an ordered set of techniques." They are the step-by-step measures to execute a method. A common procedure in the grammar-translation method, for example, is to start by explaining the grammar rules and exemplifying these rules through sentences then the students had to translate into their mother tongue. According to Harmer, a procedure is "smaller than a method and larger than a technique."

Technique

Implementing a procedure necessitates certain practices and behaviors that operate in teaching a language according to a particular method. These practices and behaviors are the techniques that every procedure relies on. Techniques, in this sense, are part and parcel of procedures. They are the actual moment-to-moment classroom steps that lead to a specified outcome. Every procedure is realized through a series of techniques. They could take the form of an exercise or just any activity that you have to do to complete a task. For instance, when using videos, teachers often use a technique called "silent viewing" which consists of playing the video without sound and asking students to figure out what the characters were saying.