

Translation as a Method of Teaching and Learning a Foreign Language

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Translation is considered as a traditional methodology of teaching and learning a foreign language as a second language. It encourages the L2 learner to think in one language and transform into another by acting as a mediator. This fundamental process of teaching and learning a foreign language (L2) which enables the L2 learner to understand similarities and differences between two languages was initiated to learn classical languages such as Latin and Greek. This research focuses on the advantages and disadvantages of using Translation as a method of learning & teaching a foreign language (L2). Translation has been traditionally used to teach grammar. It allows the teacher to depict equivalent and non-equivalent structures between the first language (L1) and the foreign language (L2). Many practical benefits could be gained through the process of translation that improves the new language (L2) ability. Through this method, L2 learner's language skills could be developed by applying the classroom gained knowledge such as grammar, composition, and interpretation of texts in a practical manner. This is one of the most prevalent beliefs among language learners (L2 learners) and language teachers as well. However as any other method, there are positive aspects as well as negative aspects of using translation in language teaching and learning (L2) since it's a process that handles two different languages (L1 and L2) which represent two different socio-cultural identities. In conclusion, this research proves that translation is an accepted, widely used, successful method in teaching and learning a foreign language (L2).

Key words: foreign language, L1, L2, methodology, translation

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