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Third stage

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Grammar Translation Method and Audio-Lingual Method

1. Grammar Translation Method (GTM)

Historical Background:

- Originated in the 19th century from the Classical Method used to teach Greek and Latin.
- Focused on reading and translating literature rather than speaking or listening.

Main Principles:

1. Goal: To read and understand literature; language learning is intellectual training.
2. Focus: Grammar rules and vocabulary are learned explicitly.
3. Translation: Central classroom activity.
4. Teacher's Role: Authority and main knowledge source.
5. Student's Role: Passive learners memorizing rules and words.
6. Language Use: Heavy use of mother tongue; target language rarely spoken.

Techniques:

- Translation of texts and literary passages.

- Memorization of vocabulary and verb forms.
- Deductive grammar instruction (rules → examples → practice).
- Reading comprehension questions.

Advantages:

- Builds grammatical and reading knowledge.
- Simple to use and easy for teachers.

Criticisms:

- Neglects speaking and listening.
- Encourages rote memorization instead of communication.
- Teacher-centered; little student interaction.

Summary: GTM teaches about the language rather than how to use it; it values accuracy and grammar mastery.

2. Audio-Lingual Method (ALM)

Historical Background:

- Developed in the United States during World War II (1940s–1950s).
- Based on behaviorist psychology and structural linguistics.

Main Principles:

1. Goal: Develop oral proficiency through accurate speaking and listening.
2. Language Learning: Habit formation through repetition and reinforcement.
3. Native Language: Avoided; target language used exclusively.
4. Teacher's Role: Model of correct speech and controller of practice.
5. Student's Role: Active imitator forming correct habits.
6. Error Treatment: Errors are avoided to prevent bad habits.

Techniques:

- Dialogue memorization.
- Repetition, substitution, and transformation drills.
- Backward build-up drills and minimal pair practice.
- Chain drills and grammar games for structure reinforcement.

Advantages:

- Emphasizes speaking and listening.
- Provides intensive, structured practice.

Criticisms:

- Speech becomes mechanical; lacks communication.
- Focus on accuracy over fluency.
- Ignores learner creativity and understanding.

Summary: ALM emphasizes pattern drills and repetition to form correct speech habits.

Comparison of GTM and ALM

Feature	Grammar Translation Method	Audio-Lingual Method
Origin	Classical Latin/Greek tradition	WWII U.S. Army Program
Theoretical Basis	Mental discipline	Behaviorism + Structural Linguistics
Language Focus	Grammar rules, vocabulary	Speech patterns, pronunciation
Skills Emphasized	Reading & writing	Listening & speaking
Grammar Teaching	Deductive (rules first)	Inductive (rules from examples)
Mother Tongue	Used extensively	Avoided completely
Error Treatment	Corrected immediately	Prevented / avoided
Teacher's Role	Authority / explainer	Drill leader / model
Student's Role	Passive learner	Active imitator
Learning Goal	Knowledge of grammar	Oral proficiency & habit formation