



Lecture on Methods of Teaching English

Third Year

By

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TECHNIQUES & PRINCIPLES IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

CHAPTER 5

Total Physical Response

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Theoretical Foundations

👤 First Language Acquisition

Asher (1977): Children respond physically to parent speech long before speaking.

🧠 Right-Brain Motor Learning

Movement activates motor pathways, building neural memory without analytical stress.



Core Pedagogical Principles



Comprehension Priority

Listening precedes speaking; a silent period is naturally respected.



Imperative Focus

Grammar and vocabulary are introduced directly through physical commands.



Low-Filter Environment

Playful action reduces performance anxiety and enhances motivation.

Commands & Action Sequences

Imperative Directives

Teacher issues action commands ("Stand up," "Walk to the door") to establish immediate visual meaning.

Command Recombination

Combining familiar elements into new sentences to check flexibility without rote memorization.

Action Sequences (Operations)

Longer series of connected commands that direct a multi-step routine (e.g., "Take out paper, write your name, fold it").

Real Objects & Props

Integrating classroom items, furniture, and pictures to make concrete vocabulary explicit.

The Four-Phase Lesson Sequence

1. Teacher Modeling

Teacher speaks command and performs action with students.

2. Student Demonstration

Students perform actions alone to show comprehension.

3. Novel Recombination

Teacher combines learned phrases into unexpected sequences.

4. Role Reversal

Students issue commands to teacher and peers when ready.

Participant Roles & Error Correction



1

Director / Playwright

Teacher decides input, directs action, and models physical output.

2

Performer / Actor

Students imitate, perform collectively, and speak when ready.

3

Tolerating Early Errors

Minor errors are ignored early; correction is gentle as speech emerges.

Strengths & Scope Boundaries

ADVANTAGES

Rapid Retention & Low Stress

Highly effective for concrete vocabulary, verbs, and imperatives. Builds strong listening comprehension with zero speaking pressure.

LIMITATIONS

Abstract Concepts & Higher Levels

Challenging to teach abstract academic vocabulary or subtle grammar rules. Best used as a dynamic technique alongside other methods.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Key Takeaways of TPR

Movement + Comprehension First = Natural Language Internalization.

1. Action-Based Input

Physical movement anchors meaning directly without translation.

2. Silent Readiness

Speech naturally emerges after internalization matures.

3. Low Stress

Fun, active physical participation removes performance anxiety.

Two re-makes

DM

Direct Method

Ch. 8



ALM

Audiolingual Method

focuses on the oral-aural aspect of language through repetition and drills.

TPR



Total Physical Response

focuses on adding physical response to DM (Student react to the language through movement).

