



Language, Learning, Teaching

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What is Language?

- Why should teachers know this?
- Language is
 - Systematic
 - A set of arbitrary symbols -vocal, visual
 - The symbols have conventionalized meanings
 - Used for communication
 - Operates in a speech community
 - Essentially human; learned in basically the same way; has universal qualities as does language learning

Learning and Teaching

- Teaching is guiding and facilitating learning
- Learning is
 - Acquisition; retaining information; via reinforced practice
 - Retention implies systems of memory, cognitive organization
 - Active, conscious focus and acting upon events - outside/inside organism
 - Change in behavior; somewhat permanent but subject to forgetting

Schools of Thought and Second Language Acquisition

- Structural Linguistics and Behavioral Psychology
- Early 1900's
- 1940's and 1950's
- Description, observable performance, scientific method, empiricism, surface structure, conditioning, reinforcement

Schools of Thought and Second Language Acquisition

- Generative Linguistics and Cognitive Psychology
- 1960's, 70's, 80's
- Generative linguistics, acquisition, innateness, interlanguage, systematicity, universal grammar, competence, deep structure

Schools of Thought and Second Language Acquisition

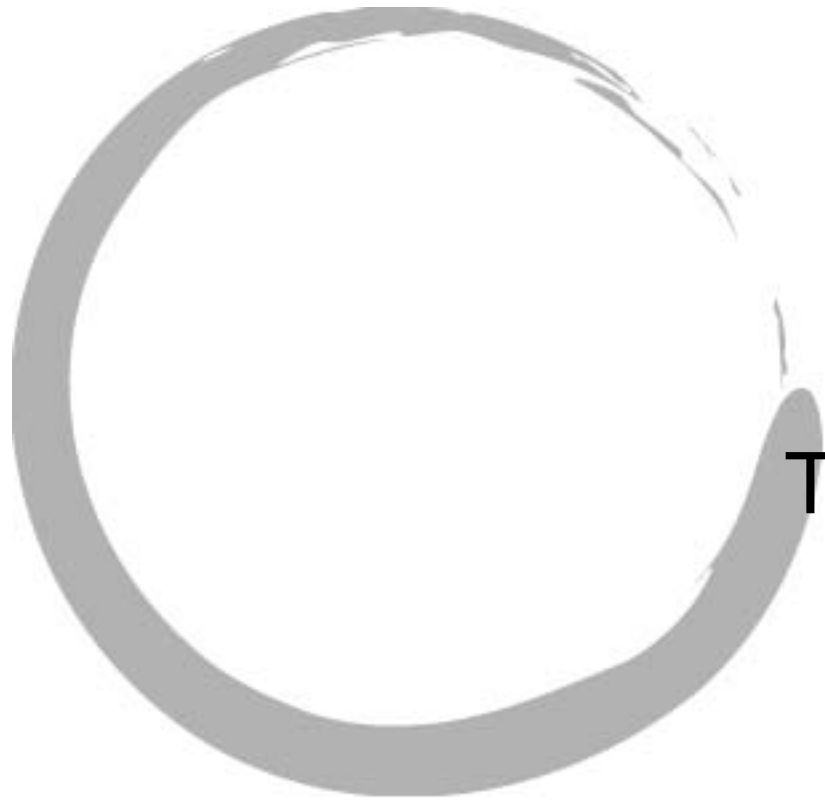
- 1980's, 90's, 2000's
- Constructivism
- Interactive discourse, sociocultural variables, cooperative learning, discovery learning, construction of meaning, interlanguage variability

19 centuries of language teaching

- Classical method became Grammar Translation method
- Classes taught in the mother tongue; little use of L2
- Elaborate grammar lessons; vocabulary lists isolated
- Reading of difficult texts begun early
- Texts used for grammatical analysis
- Occasional drills on translation
- Little or no attention to pronunciation

Methods and Approaches

- Classical method a “method” ?
- Pendulum swing vs. River - *metaphors*
- Grammar translation - theory-less
- Symbiotic relationship between schools of thought and language acquisition
- Communicative Language Teaching



THE END

