The nature of approaches and methods in language teaching

Chapter 2
• **Approach/Theory**
• A hypothesis, an assumption or a concept related to language learning and teaching
• The thought underlying lg teaching
• **Method**
  • a way or a plan for teaching

• **Technique/ procedures**
  • Strategies and activities used in the classroom to accomplish pedagogical goals
- A method is theoretically related to approach
- A method is organizationally determined by design
- A method is practically realized in technique
Approach
Influential models of language

1. Cognitive model
2. Structural model
3. Functional model
4. Interactional model
5. Sociocultural model
6. Genre model
7. Lexical model
Cognitive model

- Mind as a compute: input, process, output
- Representationalism:
- Acquisition of abstract knowledge
**Structural model**

- Lg as a structurally related elements (phonemes, sentences, morphemes, …) for encoding meaning

**Functional model**

- Lg is used to express functional meaning
Interactional model

- Lg is used to realized interpersonal relations and to perform social transactions

Sociocultural model

- Lg is used as a communicative activity
Genre model
Lexical model

- Role of lexis and vocabulary in lg
Theories of learning

1) Behaviorism
2) Cognitive code learning
3) Creative-construction hypothesis
4) Interactional theory
5) Skill learning
6) Constructivism
7) Sociocultural learning theory / social constructivism
8) Individual factors
Behaviorism

B.F. Skinner

- Behaviorism (Behaviorist Theory)
- Mind is seen as a blank slate or *tabula rasa*
- Learning is via imitation and habit formation
- Corrections and repetitions are vital
- Imitation and practice are primary processes in language development
Cognitive code learning

- Lg learning as a cognitive process/as a meaningful practice
- studying a foreign language as a system of rules and knowledge, rather than learning it as a set of skills
Creative-construction hypothesis

The Creative Construction approach has sometimes been connected to Noam Chomsky's innatist theory. This is due to the idea that as learners are exposed to input, whether it be via reading or listening, they begin to form mental representations of the language and its structures. These structures are eventually solidified in fluent speech.
Skill learning

automatic processing  controlled processing
Interactional theory

- Negotiation of meaning
- Feedback
Constructivism

Constructivism is...

- Investigate investigations
- Create creations
- Think, thinking
- Converse conversations
- Decide decisions

The effort to provide learning experiences which inspire students to...

As they learn.
Sociocultural learning theory / social constructivism
Individual factors

- Learning style preferences
- Affective factors
- Learning strategies
DESIGN

- Objectives
- Syllabus
- Types of teaching and learning activities
- Learner roles
- Teacher role
PROCEDURE

• What kind of teaching activities to present new lg, to clarify … are used
• How teaching activities are used to practice lg
• Techniques to give feedback