

## Structural Approach

**Introduction:** It is also known as Aural-oral Approach. Each language has its own pattern of structure. The structural approach is an outcome of the experiments carried out in language teaching in the army campus during World War II. Meaningful words are used in particular order. Every structure embodies an important grammatical point. A sentence needs a grammatical background. The different arrangements or patterns of words are called structures.

According to Brewington "Structural approach is a scientific study of the fundamental structures of the English language, their analysis and logical arrangement". The structural approach to English is teaching the learner certain selected structures in a certain order. The different arrangement or patterns of words are called structures. Structure may be complete patterns or they may form a part of a large pattern. Language is viewed as structurally related elements for the encoding of meaning the elements being phonemes, morphemes, words, structures and sentence types.

### Principles of Structural Approach:

It is based on three main principles: (i) Importance is given to student's activity rather than the activity of the teacher. (ii) Importance is given to speech work. (iii) Importance is given in developing correct language habits among the students, particularly the habits of arranging words in English in order to replace the sentence patterns of the pupil's mother tongue.

### Aims of Structural Approach:

The main aim of structural approach is to teach four fundamental skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. It also enlarges the vocabulary of the student's. It correlates the teaching of grammar and composition with the lesson of the text-book. It improves and corrects pupil's speech habit. It makes classroom environment interesting and natural. It develops student's interest in creating meaningful situations. It lays proper emphasis on the aural-oral approach,

active methods and the condemnation of formal grammar for its own sake. It also enables the children to attain mastery over an essential vocabulary of about 3000 root words for active use.

### **Merits of the Structural Approach –**

The merits of this approach are that it can be adopted for all stages of education. It stress habit formation, through intensive drills, the students cultivate the habit of speaking the English language, due to much oral drilling, whatever is learnt in the class remains stable in the minds of the students.

### **Demerits of the structural Approach**

The demerits of this approach are that it is suitable only in lower classes. Only well selected sentence patterns are taught through this approach. It is rarely successful in overcrowded classroom. It neglects reading of all types. This approach does not take into consideration the fact that pupil is a learner. This approach needs specially planned text-books and well trained teachers to create appropriate environment for learning the language.

Conclusion: Thus this approach is based on the assumption that language learning is a matter of habit formation, which involves a lot of repetition and conscious drilling of the language items.

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