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Structural Approach

In this approach the basis of teaching is — structures or patterns of English.

According to Siva Mohan and Mansingh,

“structure or patterns is made of words which are arranged in a specified order. Therefore, it is called structural approach.”

Definitions of Structural Approach:

1. Brewington says,

“structural approach is a scientific study of the fundamental structures of the English language, their analysis and logical arrangement.”

2. According to Menon and Patel,

“The structural approach is based on the belief that in the learning of a foreign language, mastery of structure is more important than the acquisition of vocabulary.”

3. According to C.S. Bhandari,

“The structural approach to English is teaching the learner certain selected structures in a particular order.”

Types of Structures:

structures can be divided into the following four categories —

1. Sentences Patterns:

A sentence pattern is therefore a model for sentences which will be of the same shape and construction although made up of different words.

2. Phrase patterns:

It is a word or group of words which express an idea without being a sentence or clause.

3. Formulas:

Formulas are those words which are used on certain occasions.

4. Idioms:

Idioms like 'born with a silver spoon', 'fox is human' come in this category. These should be taught as a whole.