

## **Final Portfolio task**

### **ESSAY – Eclectic approach**

#### **An eclectic approach in a primary English classroom**

An eclectic approach is the label given to a teacher's use of techniques and activities from a range of language teaching approaches and methodologies. It follows the device: do whatever you like, provided that it suits your teaching style and the needs of your learners. An eclectic approach was created after failing in finding one perfect method of teaching the language. After learning about wide spectrum of ELT methods during my teaching studies I learnt to be selective towards them and I am able to choose a method that would be appropriate for the taught group. We discussed both conventional and non-conventional methods and approaches in teaching a foreign language. In my teaching practice in the future I would like to implement various elements of some of them. I believe that in almost every method there is something that can inspire teachers and help them to become better at the job they are doing.

What I would be eager to adopt from Grammar Translation Method is deductive teaching of grammar. I believe many students feel comfortable with this way of introducing grammar – deductive explanation and giving rules and then applying them in exercises. What I find interesting is the way the new material is presented in Audiolingual method – in a form of a dialogue and the use of key structures from the dialogue as the basis for pattern drills and exercises. I believe such way of presenting new material from time to time can be beneficial for students and the dialogue can be then used for students to practice substitution in the pattern drills. A great aspect of Direct Method though, is the use of L2 exclusively for classroom instruction. What I would adopt in my teaching from this method, would be a focus on speaking and listening comprehension, as well as teaching everyday vocabulary, because I believe these skills are crucial and essential to communicate in a foreign language.

I really appreciate and totally support the aspect of Cognitivism that assumes that learning is a creative and thinking process, students are encouraged to be imaginative and to brainstorm their ideas with their classmates. As I mentioned before, we can get inspired with every method, even with the ones that are considered controversial, e.g. Suggestopedia. A fantastic aspect of Suggestopedia is the emphasis put on creating a positive, friendly, stress-free atmosphere in the classroom and the use of relaxing music. A similar concept was developed in Natural Approach, namely what teachers can have a great influence on is the level of anxiety and student-friendly environment in the classroom in which learners would feel respected, listened to and they would respect the others. Teachers should be very sensitive in this issue when they work with young learners. If children are scared, frustrated or embarrassed they will not acquire knowledge well. What I support about Silent Way is problem-solving approach to learning. Teachers should try to make their lesson as involving as possible - thinking deeply about the issue, analysing it and trying to solve the problem, sometimes by arguing or coming up with arguments, they all mean being actively involved. Moreover, when we plan a lesson, we should always bear in mind Multiple Intelligence theory, to appeal to learners' needs and try to find the best possible way for our students to learn.

There is no one universal method that suits every learner. What a teacher can do is to be aware of the existence of different methods, know their backgrounds and theories as well as how to use them in practice, but select the activities carefully depending on learners' needs and individual differences.