WEAKNESSES OF AUDIOLINGUALISM

AS PRESENTED BY SARAH AND VICTORIA
AUDIO LINGUAL METHOD
WEAKNESSES
A BRIEF BACKGROUND

The audiolingual method is a style of teaching used in teaching foreign languages. It is based on behaviorist theory which postulates that certain traits of humans could be trained through a system of reinforcement. The correct use of the trait would receive positive feedback while incorrect use of the trait would receive negative feedback.

In the late 1950s the theoretical underpinnings of the method were questioned by linguists such as Noam Chomsky, who pointed out the limitations of structural linguistics. The relevance of behaviorist psychology to language learning was also questioned, most famously Chomsky's review of B.F. Skinner's *Verbal Behavior* in 1959. The method was thus deprived of its scientific credibility and its effectiveness was later questioned.
A BRIEF BACKGROUND

• Wilga Rivers released a critique of the method in her book *The Psychologist and the Foreign Language Teacher* in 1964. Subsequent research by others inspired by her book produced results which showed explicit grammatical instruction in the mother tongue to be more productive.

• Philip Smith's study from 1965 to 1969, termed the *Pennsylvania Project* provided significant proof that audio lingual methods were less effective than a more traditional cognitive approach involving the learner's first language. These among others led to a rapid decline in the popularity of audiolingualism.
WEAKNESSES

- Basic method of teaching is repetition, speech is standardized and pupils turn into parrots who can reproduce many things but never create anything new or spontaneous. Pupils become better at pattern practice but are unable to use the patterns fluently in natural speech situations.

- Mechanical drills of early audio visual approach as being boring and mindless. They were also counterproductive, if used beyond initial introduction to new structure.
WEAKNESSES

- Audio visual materials were open to some sort of misuse. There is the tendency to regard the materials as a teaching method in itself and not as teaching aids.

- Students are sometimes confused because the teacher explains the material in a simple way not in a detailed way.

- Very little attention is paid to communication and content.

- The method does not emphasize grammar skills.
WEAKNESSES

- New materials necessitated extensive use of equipment with all associated problems of black out, and carrying tape recorders from classroom to classroom. Equipment could break down. Also, hardware involved extra time, worry and problems and for this reason alone, its use gradually faded.

- It is very boring especially for the smart students because of repetition. Students become disinterested after some time and lose focus.
WEAKNESSES

- Vocabulary acquisition is limited in this method.
- Oral skills receive more attention than written skills.
WAY FORWARD

• The audio lingual method is more beneficial when combined with other language teaching methods for a complete language experience.

• THANK YOU

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