WEAKNESSES OF TOTAL PHYSICAL RESPONSE
PLAN

I. REVIEW OF TPR
II. WEAKNESSES OF TPR
III. CONCLUSION
REVIEW OF TPR

The total physical response is a language teaching method introduced by James Asher. TPR is informed by “the Comprehension Approach” which places a lot of emphasis on listening comprehension.

Through his research, Asher reasoned that the fastest, least stressful way to understand an L2 is to follow directions uttered by the instructor.
TPR is based on three theories:

• The theory that the memory is enhanced through association with physical movement

• It is also associated with theories of mother tongue acquisition in very young children where they respond to parental commands such as ‘Put it down’, ‘Throw it away’, etc.

• It is also based on the theory that the human brain has a biological program for acquiring any natural language on earth—including sign language. The process is visible when we observe how infants internalize their first language.
WEAKNESSES OF TPR

Although the TPR methods has been successful in the teaching of foreign languages, it has some shortcomings which cannot be overlooked;
WEAKNESSES OF TPR (cont’d)

• The language input is basically restricted to the imperative since it is fairly difficult to give instructions without using imperatives.

• Due to its principal use of the imperative, it is of limited utility to the learner.

• Students are not generally given the opportunity to express their thoughts in a creative way.
WEAKNESSES OF TPR (cont’d)

• It is quite difficult to see how this approach could extend beyond beginner level.

• The relevance of TPR activities to real world learner needs is questionable.
WEAKNESSES OF TPR (cont’d)

• Unlike the L1 environment where the child is surrounded by native speakers, here the language learning environment is only the classroom.

• The assumption that the L2 learner will be able to learn the language like the L1 learner is false. This is because for the L1 learner, there is more to the language learning than just responding to commands.
WEAKNESSES OF TPR

• It can be boring.
• It is not a convenient method for someone who needs to learn a language within a short period of time.
• It is a childish method to use for advanced learners.
CONCLUSION

• After having viewed all these weaknesses of the total physical response, we realized that in order to make the TPR method more effective, language instructors are not supposed to limit themselves to just this method but use it together with other language teaching methods.
THANK YOU !!!