Techniques And Principles In Language Teaching

Techniques & Principles in Language Teaching
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Synopsis
This is an updated third edition of our popular introduction to language teaching methodology, which describes different methods and approaches in language teaching. Clear and jargon-free, it provides practical step-by-step guidance for new teachers, and introduces more experienced teachers to new approaches and teaching ideas. Includes a new chapter on the use of digital technology.

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Customer Reviews
This book clearly lays out various TESOL methodologies, one per chapter, and each chapter follows the same clear and concise structure. Relatively light on the tedious, commercially-driven filler that usually afflicts most TESOL textbooks. This is Diane Larsen Freeman (one of THE high priestesses of the whole TESOL industry/field) at her best. Clearly written for the real world of classroom teachers and teachers-in-training, rather than to impress and befuddle her peers in academia like much of her theoretical Second Language Acquisition writings.

This is a great introduction to all of the various methods of teaching foreign languages. The author writes clearly about what kind of principles and ideas form the foundation of various methods and approaches. She details which theories of language and learning and which goals are deemed important by proponents of each method. She describes a typical lesson in different settings around the world for each chapter and method which becomes the core of each chapter. Although an easy
and informative read, I found that the author was incredibly reluctant to make any criticism or praise on any of the methods. I would have found this book more useful if the author had brought to light what criticisms have been made of each method and if possible what its proponents have said in defending it. Also it would have been especially nice to hear about what research has been done (if applicable) on the efficacy of each method. The author claims that the aim of the book is to inform teachers about other methods and the principles that undermine them, so that readers can make use of these in a 'principally eclectic' way. So I can see why she avoided critically undermining the approaches introduced in the book. However, I feel that my own ability to make these choices would have been enhanced by a more critical analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each method. It’s a solid introduction for beginners, but definitely left me wanting more.

I am a language instructor and a methodology instructor. This book goes through many language teaching methodologies with mediocre definitions and explanations. Then it provides samples and some discussion questions. What is painfully lacking is that there is ZERO support/research for any methodology. I guess it never promised this in the first place but would you read a book on cancer treatments that provided zero research on the effectiveness or outcomes of those treatments? The only reason that language instruction ever takes place is the goal of language acquisition and communicative competence and a book that completely ignores that can offer minor value at best.

This was the required text for an online course that I recently took. The outstanding feature was the approach to exemplifying and clarifying each of the teaching methods treated. Each chapter presented a narrative of the actual happenings in a class where a given method was in use. This was followed by a chart which paired the specific teaching actions to an underlying principle. The end of each chapter was a series of 10 questions, particularly relevant to the TESOL situation (i.e: What are the goals? How is culture viewed? How are errors dealt with? What is the role of students’ native language?). This approach makes the key information and concepts more likely to be understood and remembered, without ‘watering down’ any of the subject matter.

Yes! It is an excellent book for language teachers that fulfills language teachers’ expectations in terms of methodology, strategies, and techniques for EFL/ESL throughout the world. I highly recommend it for both undergraduate and graduate language learners as well.

I’m using this as a text for an ESL Methods class I’m developing, and while I think it presents the
various methodologies very clearly and accurately, I do wish the authors would have taken a stand on which methodologies are more effective than others, since clearly, they are not all equal. Had the authors presented criticisms, or at least pros/cons, of the less effective methods, I don't believe one could find a better methods book for students.

Provides a great summary of some of the techniques and methods out there. I loved getting ideas from this book.

This has some very good tips for ESL teachers. I like that it goes more in depth about that different teaching approaches and it offers up a lot of useful information.