

## **BILINGUAL METHOD**

The bilingual method developed as an improvement over the traditional methods grammar-cum-translation method and the direct method of teaching English. In fact, bilingual method is a mid-way approach between the translation-cum-grammar method and the direct method. C.J. Dodson of University College of Wales (U.K.) devised this method. The word 'bilingual' means two languages. Thus in bilingual method, languages are used in the teaching of English or any foreign language. One language may be English and the other language is the learner's mother tongue or the regional language. In direct method, English is taught through English. Learner's mother tongue is not at all used in the teaching or learning process. This creates difficulty for teachers to teach and for learners to learn English with proficiency. In translation method, each word, phrase or sentence in English is translated into learner's mother tongue. The teacher adopts word to word translation. Children have no opportunity to speak in English. In bilingual method, the teacher teaches English by giving mother tongue equivalents of English words or sentences wherever required. Thus, in bilingual method use of mother tongue is allowed to give direction, elicit an answer or explain some difficult and new words. But speech is not neglected. Thus, it is rightly said that bilingual method is an improvement over the old translation method and the direct method of teaching English or any foreign language.

### **OBJECTIVES OF BILINGUAL METHOD**

#### **THE OBJECTIVES OF BILINGUAL METHODS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-**

1. The learner will be able to speak fluently in the target language, i.e. in English.
2. The learner will be able to write fluently and accurately in the target language.
3. The learner will be able to understand new words, idioms and phrases in the target language.
4. The learner will be able to achieve true bilingualism.

### **ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF BILINGUAL METHOD:-**

- In this method, mother tongue is used to convey the meaning of new words, phrases, idioms, sentences and grammatical points and rules.
- Word for word translation is not followed in this method.
- Mother tongue is used only at the initial stage of the lesson. As students make progress in learning, use of mother tongue is avoided.
- In this method, mother tongue is used only by the teacher but not by the students.
- The use of mother tongue saves a lot of time for the teacher. The teacher need not take more time to create situations to explain new words, phrases, idioms and sentences in English.
- The time saved by the teacher is utilized for intensive drill and practice by students.

### **LIMITATIONS OF BILINGUAL METHOD:-**

In spite of the advantages of bilingual method there are certain limitations for which language experts do not favour this method:

- Bilingual method allows teachers to give mother tongue equivalents of new English words, idioms, phrases, etc. What happens in practice is that once teachers are allowed to use the mother tongue they tend to make excess use of mother tongue. In that case, bilingual method is converted into translation method.
- This method is suitable for average teachers. Competent teachers do not prefer to use this method. Teachers who use bilingual method are rated as incompetent teachers.
- There is a difficulty in finding mother tongue equivalents of each word, idiom, phrases or even sentence in English. Even if teachers try to use mother tongue equivalents teaching and learning of English become artificial.