

"Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)"

The History of Communicative Language Teaching

The Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), started its rise to prominence during the 1970s and 80s. It is a method that overtook older and more traditional methods such as the GTM, ALM. The aim of the communicative approach is to provide students with real life communication lessons that try to mimic the natural progression of language learning. The idea is to make the target language more relevant to real world situations rather than the classroom.

Definition of CLT: The communicative approach is the theory that language is communication. Therefore the final aim of CLT (Communicative Language Teaching) is communicative competence. Communicative language teaching makes use of real-life situations that necessitate communication. The first principle of CLT , authentic and meaningful communication. Second, learners learn through using it to communicate. Third, fluency is an important dimension of communication. Then, communication involves the integration of different language skills. The last, learning is a process of creative construction and involves trial and error.

Advantages of CLT : Learning second language through interaction, authentic communication and negotiating meaning. Understanding of English through active student interaction; role play, games, information gaps. The communicative approach embraces the principle of “learning by doing,” encouraging the use of English from the beginning of instruction

Disadvantages of CLT: CLT does not focus on error correction. This is a disadvantage as learners are forced to practice with classmates who are not fluent in English. Another disadvantage is that the CLT approach focuses on fluency but not accuracy.