

The Communicative Approach or: (Communicative Language Teaching or CLT)

Goals

To become communicatively competent, able to use language appropriate for a given social context; to manage the process of negotiating meaning with interlocutors.

Roles

Teacher facilitates students' learning by managing classroom activities, setting up communicative situations. Students are communicators, actively engaged in negotiating meaning.

Teaching/Learning Process

Activities are communicative—they represent an information gap that needs to be filled; speakers have a choice of what to say and how to say it; they receive feedback from the listener that will verify that a purpose has been achieved. Authentic materials are used. Students usually work in small groups.

Interaction: Student-Teacher & Student-Student

Teacher initiates interactions between students and participates sometimes. Students interact a great deal with each other in many configurations.

Dealing with Feelings

Emphasis is on developing motivation to learn through establishing meaningful, purposeful things to do with the target language. Individuality is encouraged, as well as cooperation with peers, which both contribute to sense of emotional security with the target language.

View of Language, Culture

Language is for communication. Linguistic competence must be coupled with an ability to convey intended meaning appropriately in different social contexts. Culture is the everyday lifestyle of native speakers of the target language. Nonverbal behavior is important.

Aspects of Language the Approach Emphasizes

Functions are emphasized over forms, with simple forms learned for each function at first, then more complex forms. Students work at discourse level. They work on speaking, listening, reading, and writing from the beginning. Consistent focus on negotiated meaning.

Role of Students' Native Language

Students' native language usually plays no role.

Means for Evaluation

Informal evaluation takes place when teacher advises or communicates; formal evaluation is by means of an integrative test with a real communicative function.

Response to Students' Errors

Errors of form are considered natural; students with incomplete knowledge can still succeed as communicators.

Source:

Larsen-Freeman, D., & Anderson, M. (2011). *Techniques & principles in language teaching* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.