

# The Secret History of Methods

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# method

- vs. approach
- beyond methods/ post-method
- textbook-as-method

“The concept of method has not been replaced by the concept of postmethod but rather by an era of textbook-defined practice. What the majority of teachers teach and how they teach ... are now determined by textbooks.”

Akbari, R. 2008. Postmethod discourse and practice. *TESOL Quarterly*, 42/4, p. 647.

# 1918

“Find your point of contact in the daily experience of the foreigner, and lead him as speedily as possible into touch with the language of daily life...”

Roberts, P. 1918. *English for Coming Americans: Teachers Manual*. p. 19

# 1956

“Language is not a sterile subject to be confined to the classroom. One of two things must be done: either life must be brought to the classroom or the class must be taken to life.”

Stevens, P. *Spoken Language*. 1956, p. 69

# 1961

“The teacher must really be himself and give himself, talking to real people about real things and then training his pupils to talk to one another about real things.”

Billows, L. 1961. *The Techniques of Language Teaching*. p. 56.

# 1961

“The language must not be allowed to stay imprisoned between the pages of a book.”

Billows, L. 1961. *The Techniques of Language Teaching*. p. 71.

# 1949

“They should feel that each lesson is their lesson, not the teacher’s.... In an English class which is well run, the teacher is only a guide.”

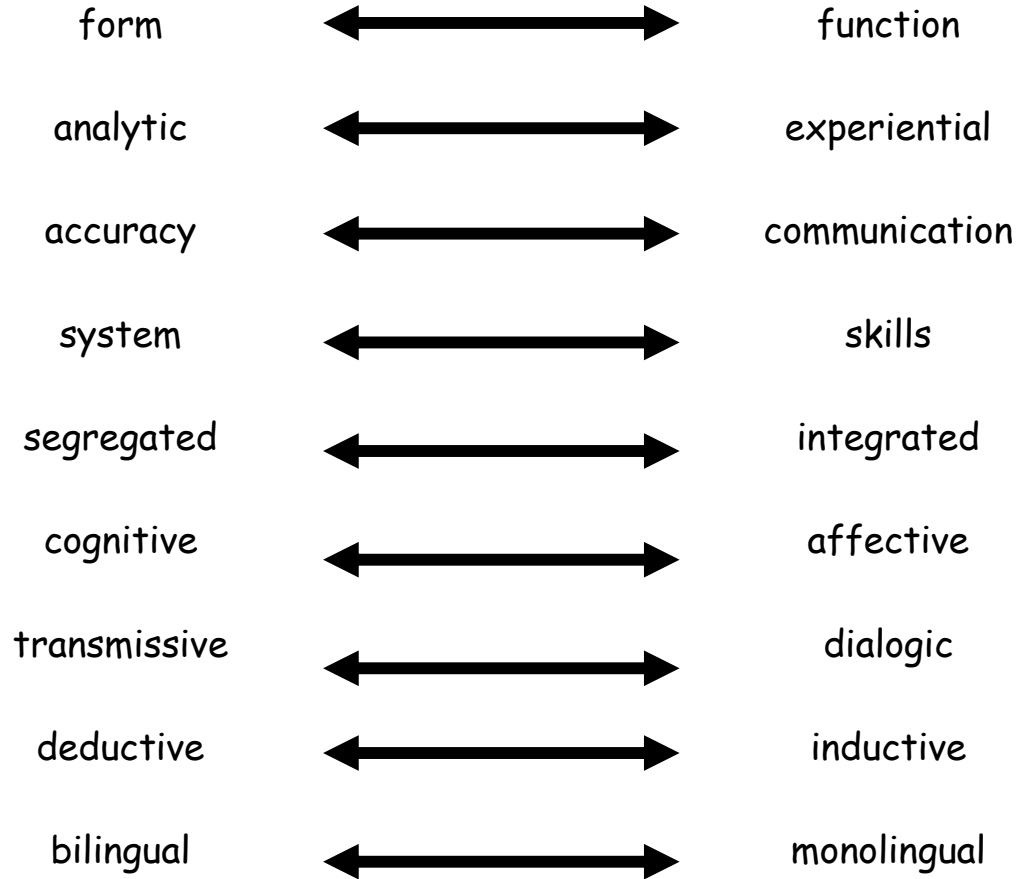
French, F. 1949. *The Teaching of English Abroad: Part II The Junior Course*. p.31.



“.....these changes have represented different configurations of the same basic options...”

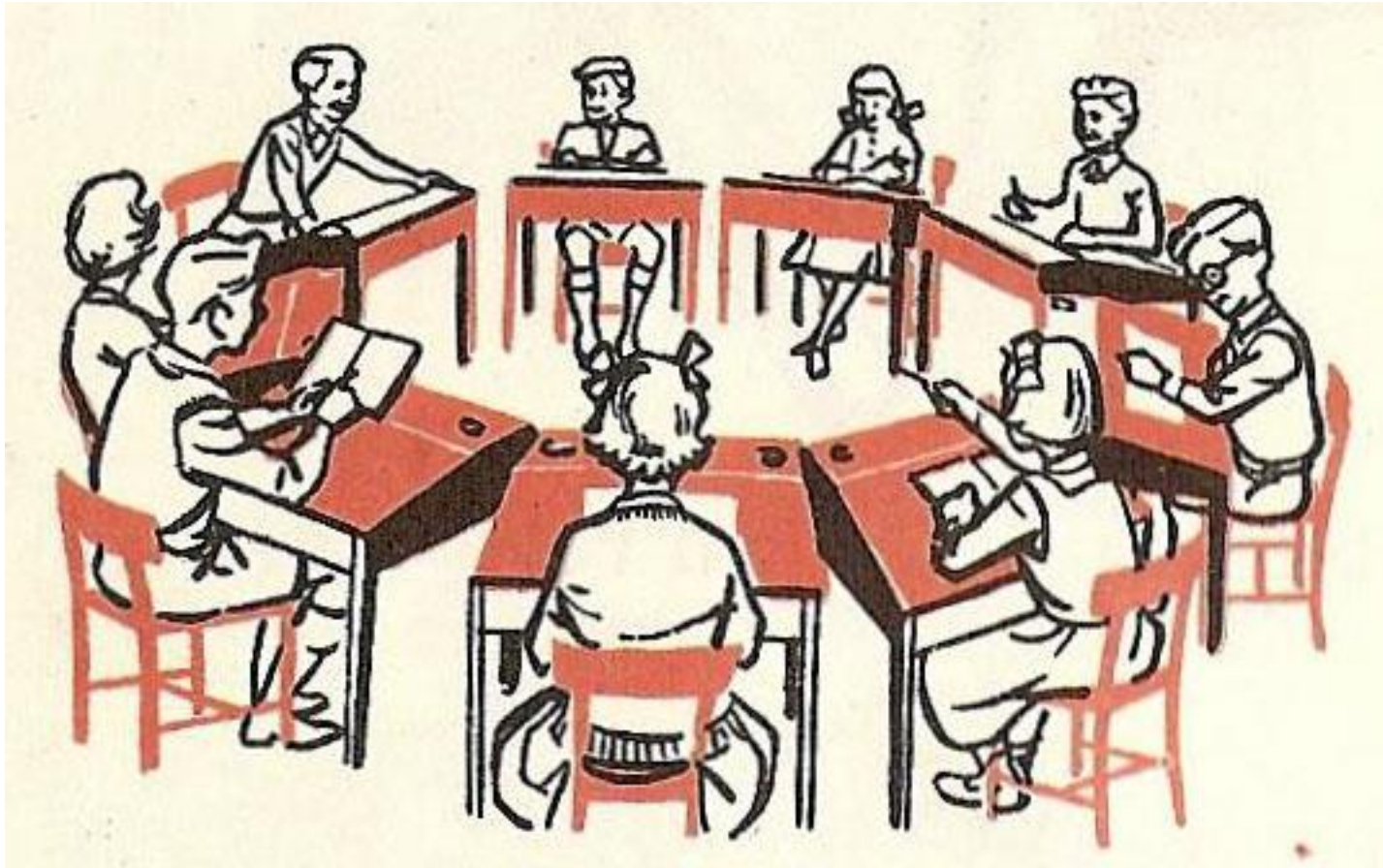
Pennycook A. (1989). 'The concept of method, interested knowledge, and the politics of language teaching', *TESOL Quarterly* 23: 589-618.

# Dimensions of methodology



“The language must not be allowed to stay imprisoned between the pages of a book...”

“What should the pupils feel about all our English lessons, generally? First, they should feel that each lesson is their lesson, not the teacher’s.... In an English class which is well run, the teacher is only a guide.”



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