

MLA-CAL-TFC FILMS

TEACHING A SECOND LANGUAGE

A series of five motion pictures (sponsored by the MLA and its Center for Applied Linguistics, and Teaching Film Custodians), designed to instruct teachers in the application of modern principles of linguistics to the teaching of a second language, is now completed and available. The films, multilingual in approach, can be used by teachers in any language, including English. Each topic is covered in a 3-reel, 16 mm. black-and-white sound film (running time: approx. 30 min.). A teaching guide accompanies each film subject. A comprehensive "Instructor's Manual" has been prepared for use with the series by the Center for Applied Linguistics.

Series (15 reels): \$850.00. Individual subjects: \$170.00. Films may also be rented.

FILM #1. THE NATURE OF LANGUAGE AND HOW IT IS LEARNED

The film establishes the validity of the "oral approach to teaching." The living language is shown to be speech, with examples, drawn from the vast reservoir of languages of the world, which reveal how differently languages function in their sound systems, grammatical organizations and lexical developments. Speech is compared with writing. People learn to speak their native language early in life, generally at the preschool level, through oral experiences only. Modern teaching of a second language parallels the way in which people learn their first language, but is more scientifically organized and stresses the formation of new language habits. Technical advisers: James C. Bostain, Raleigh Morgan, Jr., and Earl W. Stevick. Narration: Rod Colbin.

FILM #2. THE SOUNDS OF LANGUAGE

Because each language has its own sound system (characteristic intonation patterns, rhythms, stresses and individual sounds) there is a tendency of one learning a second language to carry over sound patterns of his own speech to the new language, thus causing difficulties of understanding. Sound features of various languages are compared; the concept of phonemic sound contrasts is explained.

A class in Spanish for English speakers demonstrates the modern approach to teaching the important sound features of a second language, giving proper balance to intonational patterns, rhythms, stresses, and pronunciation of individual sounds. Technical advisers: J. R. Frith, William W. Gage, Eleanor H. Jorden, and Iris S. Shah. Narration: Rod Colbin and Robert Lado.

FILM #3. THE ORGANIZATION OF LANGUAGE

The film demonstrates that pre-school children, before they have learned to read and write, can use the forms and arrangements of words that convey meaning, the organization, or grammar of language.

Children everywhere learn orally the ways of achieving the organization of their language, but the patterns of organization differ from language to language, and are based not so much on logic as on customs and conventions peculiar to each language.

A class in German for English speakers shows how grammatical patterns and their variations are taught by modern methods. Technical advisers: Jean Berko, James C. Bostain, William W. Gage, and Sirarpi Ohannessian. Narration: Rod Colbin.

FILM #4. WORDS AND THEIR MEANINGS

The film demonstrates that words in one language do not cover the same areas of meaning as words in another. Therefore word for word translation from one language to another is not a valid procedure.

Words in any language are not single units of meanings, but change their meanings depending on the situations in which they are used. Therefore, learning lists of words in isolation is an inaccurate and misleading procedure.

But the situations in life are viewed and described differently in diverse tongues. Common expressions in one tongue are not convertible into another. Modern language teaching is sensitive to cultural attitudes that affect the use of words.

Scenes from a French class for English speakers show how words are taught in meaningful context and how the ranges of meanings of such words are developed by practice of appropriate expressions. Technical advisers: Nicholas C. Bodman, Dan Desberg, Allan M. Kulakow, John W. Martin, Raleigh Morgan, Jr. Narration: Rod Colbin, Robert Lado, J. Luke Martel.

FILM #5. MODERN TECHNIQUES IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

This film (using English as the second language to be learned) reinforces and expands the techniques explained and illustrated in the first four films.

Demonstrations include a third grade class of Spanish-speaking children, a ninth grade class of Spanish-speaking adolescents and an adult class of speakers of languages from the Middle East, Far East, Africa, Europe, and South America.

The film also considers the role of the non-native teacher who must bear the responsibility of teaching a second language throughout the world. References are made to the use of language recordings and to the problems of the oversized language class. Technical advisers: Robert J. Di Pietro, Bernarda S. Erwin, Nancy L. Fargo, Sirarpi Ohannessian, Betty Wallace Robinett. Narration: Rod Colbin.

Written and produced under supervision of Charles E. Ferguson, Director of the Center for Applied Linguistics, and a Supervisory Committee of distinguished scholars. Writer and Supervisor: Theodore B. Karp. Film Production (Under MLA contract): Reid H. Ray Film Industries. To purchase: write Teaching Film Custodians, 25 W. 43rd St., New York 36. To rent: write the following institutions: California (Berkeley); Colorado; Delaware; Southern Illinois; Illinois; Indiana; Indiana State College (Terre Haute); Iowa; Michigan; Minnesota; Missouri; North Carolina; Pennsylvania State; Texas; Brigham Young; Utah; Washington State (Pullman); and Wisconsin; the State Department of Education in Helena, Montana, and Albany, New York; and The American Museum of Natural History (New York).