



**TOTAL PHYSICAL RESPONSE
TPR**

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General definition

TPR stands for Total Physical Response, a language teaching method that emphasizes the use of physical movement to learn new words and phrases.

It was developed by James Asher in the 1960s. In TPR, students respond to commands in the target language by physically carrying out the actions associated with the words or phrases.

This method is particularly effective for beginners and is believed to mimic the way children naturally acquire language through physical interaction.



Introduction

Comprehension Approach

In 1960s, James Asher's research gave rise to the hypothesis that language learning starts first with understanding and ends with production.

Speaking will appear spontaneously.

Notice that this is exactly how an infant acquires its native language.

Spend months of listening before it utters a word.

The child chooses to speak when it is ready to do so



Natural Approach

In this approach, the focus is on **students' developing basic communication skills** through receiving meaningful exposure to the target language (comprehensible input).

Meaning is given priority over form and thus vocabulary acquisition is stressed.

The students do not speak at first, just listen to the teacher using the target language communicatively from the first day of instruction.

The teacher helps her students to understand her by using **pictures and occasional words in the students' native language.**

self-instructional program

Another method that fits within the Comprehension Approach is **self-instructional program**.

In this, students listen to **tape-recorded words, phrases, and sentences** while looking at accompanying pictures. The students are asked to respond in some way, such as pointing to each picture as it is described, to show that they understand.

Lexical Approach

A third method that fits here is the Lexical Approach by Michael Lewis. It is less concerned with student production and more concerned that students receive and comprehend abundant input. Lewis emphasizes acquisition over learning. He says “the key to increasing the learner’s lexicon is through the exposure to enough suitable input and not formal teaching (Lewis 1997: 197).

Total Physical Response (TPR)

A fourth method by James Asher is the Total Physical Response (TPR) According to Asher, the fastest, least stressful way to achieve understanding of any target language is to follow directions uttered by the instructor (without native language translation).

Experience the example: The class is located in Sweden.

It is a beginning class for 30 Grade 5 students.

They study English for one class period three times a week.

THANK

YOU