**Lecture 7**

**Suggestopedia ­**– **a method of teaching of English**

1. Concept of Suggestopedia
2. Key features of Suggestopedia
3. Role of Teacher in Suggestopedia

English is a foreign language. It is widely used in many parts of the world. In the field of education, the place of English teacher is significant. Dr. Rabindranath rightly said, “Every one cannot be a good teacher, teaching is not everybody’s cup of tea”. So teaching and learning is an art. This can be achieved through methods. Suggestopedia is a teaching method which is based on a modern understanding of how the human brain works. It also helps to learn the things most effectively. It includes a rich sensory learning & positive expectation of success. Suggestopedia also uses different range of methods like dramatized texts, music and active participation in songs and games. The effective feature of this method is the use of “music and “musical rhythm.” Suggestopedia was originally developed in the 1970s by the Bulgarian psychotherapist and a great educator Georgi Lozanov. It was originally applied mainly in foreign language teaching. It is often claimed that it can teach languages as quickly as traditional methods. It improves physical health and bring substantial benefits in personality and motivation.

**1. Concept of Suggestopedia**

Suggestopedia is a very interesting method which used mostly to learn through their own learning style which are visual, auditory, or kinesthetic style. Those who visually learn through seeing and they need to see the teacher’s body language and they can learn the best through verbal lectures, discussions, talking things through, and listening to what others have to say. Suggestopedia is one of the methods that can be used by teacher. It is a method that desuggests the limitations that students have to help them to believe that they could be successful in learning. So it can definitely cultivate students motivation in learning. Moreover, in involves emotional meaning in given the lesson which help student’s better in memorizing. So suggestion is at the heart of suggestopedia. Lozanov noticed that learners have difficulties in acquiring English as the second language because of the fear of the students to get mistakes. He believes that there is a mental block in the learner’s brain (affective filter). So it blocks the learner’s have difficulties to acquire language caused by their fear. So suggestopedia means the combination of desuggesion & suggestion obiviously lower the fear and motivate student’s potential to learn. So the students should learn to understand & use the target language for communication, is the final goal of suggestopedia.

**Key features of Suggestopedia**

a) Comfortable or cozy environment :

In suggestopedia method, the classroom arrangement is more convenient and comfortable for the students. The chairs or benches are arranged semicircle & faced the board in order to make the students more relaxed & can pay more attention.

b) The use of music:

Use of Baroque music during the learning process. Baroque music with its 60 beats per minute & its specific rhythm. It automatically create the kind of relaxed state of mind for maximum retention of material.

c) Peripheral learning :

The students learn English not only from direct instruction but also from indirect instruction . It encouraged the students through the presence of learning material. Posters, teaching aids, decoration featuring the target language with grammatical information changed everyday.

d) Free errors :

In the teaching learning process, students who make mistaken are welcomed, for example in pronouncing the word, writing the spelling etc. The emphasis is on the context not the structure. The main focus is on vocabulary and grammar through enjoyable environment.

e) Limited home assignment:

Students reread the given material in the classroom. So they are relaxed at the home. No burden of homework is there for the students.

f) Integration of music, drama & art:

Both the intonation and rhythm are co-ordinated with a musical back ground. The musical background helps to induce a relaxed & cozy attitude.

**3. Role of Teacher in Suggestopedia**

Teacher should play a vital role in this approach. Though this is a student centered method, teacher has prime place to motivate the learner in language retention. Lozanov suggested expected teacher behaviors as follows:

1) Teacher should show absolute confidence in the method

2) Teacher should organize the initial stages of teaching learning process which includes play of music

3) Maintain a solemn attitude towards the session

4) Conduct tests & respond tactfully to poor students

5) Stress global rather than analytical attitudes towards material

6) Maintain a modest enthusiasm in the class.

In this way teacher can use suggestopedia as teaching method in their teaching learning process. Using suggestopedia is very interesting but challenging too. It definitely provides some valuable insights into the power of cognition & creates techniques that make students feel comfortable, relaxed and suggestible to the material to be learned.

References:

1. DePorter,Boby.2008.Suggestopedia.Mediawiki.20 Jan.2009
2. Lado,Robert.1967:LanguageTesting: The Construction and Use of foreign language test:Ahandbook.London:Longmans
3. Yule,G.,1995:The Study of Language: Anintroduction.Cambridge: Oxford University Press.
4. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/silent-way>
5. Suggestopedia-wikipedia,the free encyclopedia