

BOOK REVIEW

“Comparative Review: Exploring Two Perspectives on Language Teaching - A Critical Analysis of Geetha Nagaraj and Dionysios I. Psoinos’ Books”

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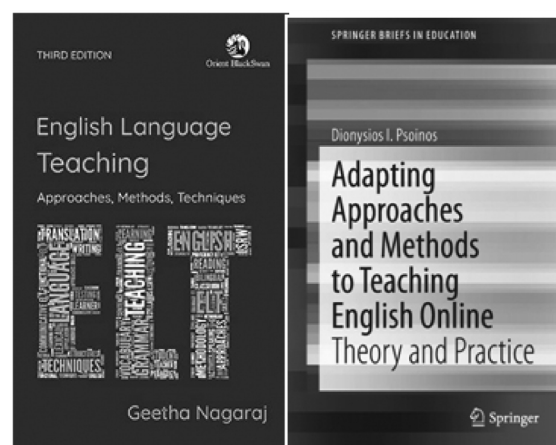
Title” English Language Teaching: Approaches, Methods, Techniques (Third Edition)” by Geetha Nagaraj.

Author: Geetha Nagaraj, Publisher: Orient Black Swan, Publication Year: 2021, ISBN:9789354420788, Pages: 252, Price: 575.00 INR, Format: Paperback Dimensions: 140 x 216 mm, Territorial Rights: World Series: Teachers’, Language: English

“English Language Teaching: Approaches, Methods, Techniques (Third Edition)” by Geetha Nagaraj is a meticulously crafted resource for educators and English language teachers seeking to enhance their understanding of language teaching methodologies and the practical application of these methodologies in the classroom. The author brings a wealth of academic and professional qualifications to her role as an ELT Consultant based in Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

She takes readers on a journey through the history of language teaching, starting with traditional methods such as the Grammar-Translation and Structural-Oral-Situational approaches. She then seamlessly transitions to contemporary approaches like the communicative approach and humanistic methodologies, including the silent way, community language learning, suggestopedia, and total physical response. This comprehensive overview allows educators to appreciate the evolution of language teaching and make informed choices about their teaching approaches.

Part I, dedicated to “Approaches and



Methods,” serves as a valuable foundation for educators. It provides insights into the philosophy and principles behind each methodology, allowing teachers to align their teaching practices with their educational objectives. Geetha Nagaraj’s clear explanations and real-life examples make these complex concepts accessible to both novice and experienced teachers. In Part II, “Techniques,” the author offers a treasure trove of practical strategies for teaching English language skills. Whether it’s teaching listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, or vocabulary, this section provides concrete guidance and classroom-tested techniques. The integration of skills is a particularly relevant topic in today’s language classrooms, and the book offers valuable insights into how to achieve this effectively.

Furthermore, Geetha Nagaraj addresses the use of teaching aids, ranging from traditional tools like the blackboard to modern resources like audio recordings and information and communication technology. This recognition of the role of

technology in contemporary education is a significant strength of the book, ensuring its relevance in today's digital learning landscape. The discussion on testing criteria and procedures in the final chapters helps educators accurately assess their students' progress and adapt their teaching strategies accordingly. This section is particularly valuable for educators who need to align their assessments with their teaching objectives.

As an ELT consultant with extensive experience, Geetha Nagaraj's expertise shines through every page. Her real-world insights, coupled with her pedagogical knowledge, make this book an invaluable resource for teachers at all levels of experience. In the third edition, the author has thoughtfully updated the content to reflect the growing role of digital tools and platforms in

language teaching. This adaptation to modern teaching practices ensures that the book remains relevant and useful in today's ever-evolving educational landscape.

Geetha Nagaraj's book has a broad scope, covering a wide range of language teaching methods, techniques, and teaching aids, both traditional and modern, suitable for various educational settings. It is an indispensable resource for English language educators. Whether you're a novice teacher seeking foundational knowledge or an experienced educator looking to refresh your teaching methods, this book offers comprehensive insights and practical guidance. It's an essential addition to the library of any teacher or teacher-trainer and deserves recognition for its contribution to the field of English language teaching.

Title: *'Adapting Approaches and Methods to Teaching English Online: Theory and Practice'* (Springer Briefs in Education)

Author: Dionysios I. Psinos, Publication Date: 13 July 2021, Publisher: Springer Nature Switzerland,

Format: Paperback, ISBN-10: 3030799182, Pages: 119 pages

Dionysios I. Psinos, a seasoned educator with over two decades of experience teaching English and Greek as foreign languages across diverse international contexts, offers a timely and invaluable resource in "Adapting Approaches and Methods to Teaching English Online: Theory and Practice." Published as part of the Springer Briefs in Education series, this book is a comprehensive guide for language teachers transitioning to the online teaching environment. The book addresses the pressing need for educators to adapt their teaching methods and

approaches to the digital realm, especially in the context of language instruction. Psinos, drawing from his rich background in teaching and educational technology, constructs a framework that navigates the intricacies of synchronous and asynchronous online language teaching.

One of the book's key strengths is its focus on the unique attributes of online teaching environments. It delves into the nuances of instructional media, exploring their advantages and constraints, and provides practical recommendations for tailoring pedagogical strategies to suit this digital landscape. In doing so, Psinos seamlessly transfers established language teaching methodologies from physical classrooms to the virtual world, resulting in an innovative "e-clectic" approach. This approach

empowers language educators to blend time-tested best practices with their teaching preferences and styles, all while considering the tools and capabilities available to both teachers and learners in the online space.

Importantly, the book equips teachers with the critical thinking and reflective skills needed to enhance their online teaching practices. Through the analysis of live online language sessions, educators gain the confidence to optimize screen layouts and address the intricate issue of adapting teacher and learner identities within the virtual context. The author takes a holistic view of the roles played by teachers and learners in online language sessions, providing guidance and support that are essential for effective online teaching.

Dionysios I. Psoinos's impressive academic qualifications, including a Ph.D. candidacy in Language and Communication, underscore his expertise in the field. His vast international teaching experience, coupled with his academic pursuits, positions him as a trusted authority on online language education.

In an era where online education has become increasingly prevalent, "*Adapting Approaches and Methods to Teaching English Online: Theory and Practice*" stands as an indispensable resource for language educators worldwide. It empowers educators to make the successful transition to the digital realm while maintaining the pedagogical excellence that is essential for effective language instruction. Certainly, here's a comparative discussion that highlights the key similarities and differences between these two books.

Both the books are up-to-date with current trends

and developments in the field of language education. Both authors provide practical guidance for educators. They consider the impact of technology on teaching and learning, a crucial aspect in today's educational landscape.

Both books demonstrate a strong academic foundation in the field of English Language Teaching (ELT). Geetha Nagaraj's book reflects her comprehensive understanding of traditional and modern language teaching methods, and offers a wide range of teaching methods, techniques, and aids for language educators.

Dionysios I. Psoinos's book is particularly tailored for educators who are either transitioning to online teaching or seeking to enhance their online teaching practices, offering specialized guidance in this specific area. It showcases his academic expertise and practical experience in online language teaching and focuses on adapting traditional teaching methods to online environments, offering specific recommendations for online language educators. It delves deeply into the unique challenges and opportunities of online language teaching, offering practical solutions for adapting teaching methods to the digital environment. Depending on the specific teaching context and goals, researchers/teachers may find one or both of these books highly relevant to your professional development as an educator.

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