



History of TESOL

Teachers of English to Speakers of
Other Languages



History of TESOL

- **TESOL** is an acronym which stands for *"teaching English to speakers of other languages"*

There are two forms of TESOL:

- TESOL as a professional organization
- TESOL as a training program to teach English to speakers of other languages (in the US or abroad)

The logo graphic consists of a vertical black line on the left, a horizontal black line below the text, and three overlapping squares: a yellow one at the top left, a red one at the bottom left, and a blue one at the bottom left, partially overlapping the red one.

TESOL

- First, TESOL is an independent professional organization of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc.
 - established in 1966
- Second, TESOL is a global education association
 - more than 13,000 members
 - 90 affiliates in over 120 countries.



Mission

- TESOL's mission is to ensure excellence in English language teaching to speakers of other languages.
 - Created out of professional concern over the lack of a single, all-inclusive professional organization
 - Bring together teachers and administrators at all educational levels with an interest in teaching English to speakers of other languages (ESOL)



The Creation of TESOL

The culmination of more than 4 years of organizational groundwork and discussions centering around three issues:

- The need for a professional organization permanently devoted to the problems of teaching English to speakers of other languages, at all levels



The Creation of TESOL

- The need for a pedagogical journal
- The need for a register of specialists of qualified personnel required for foundations, government agencies, and universities



Beginning of TESOL

- Five organizations gave birth to TESOL, each one vitally concerned with second language problems, yet no one organization *exclusively* concerned with them



Beginnings

- **The Center for Applied Linguistics**
 - Interests in the entire area of applied linguistics, which includes a program in English as a second language.



Beginnings

- **The Modern Language Association of America**
 - concentrated on teaching English and foreign languages to native speakers as well as literary scholarship.



Beginnings

- **The National Association of Foreign Student Affairs**
 - deals with all problems of the foreign student including language problems



Beginnings

- **The National Council of Teachers of English**
- encompasses all of English pedagogy including English as a second language



Beginnings

- **The Speech Association of America**
- Concerned with classrooms
- Research speakers whose English is not idiomatic



Five Interested Organizations

- The Steering Committee from TESOL conference in Tucson in 1964, in San Diego in 1965, and New York convention in 1966, was comprised of the representatives of these five interested organizations. (Anderson, 1967, p. 175)



TESOL Training Program

- TESOL is also a training program to teach English to speakers of other languages.
- TESOL methodologies have changed over the years
 - Grammar Translation Method
 - Direct Method
 - Audiolingualism
 - Communicative Approach



Methodologies

- **The Grammar Translation Method**, as the name implies, had an emphasis on teaching grammar.
- **The Direct Method** observed that second language learning is similar to first language learning. A spontaneous use of language with lots of oral interaction is used.
 - Instead of analysis of grammar, meaning is deduced from content. Everyday language and vocabulary is taught using pictures and symbols
- **The Audiolingual Method**
 - Importance of pronunciation which is taught explicitly from the beginning
- **The Communicative Approach** appeared in the 1980s and is currently dominant in language teaching.
 - Primary purpose of language is communication
 - using language to communicate is central in all language instruction



TESOL Spanned Decades

- Methodologies reflect change in linguistic theories over time.
- Today needs of the learner continue to change.
- The future of TESOL is likely to continue to grow and develop as a profession.



Works Cited:

- James E. Alatis. *The Early History of TESOL*. Georgetown University
- <http://www.tesol.org>
- Marianne Celce-Murcia, Donna M. Brinton, Janet M. Goodwin. *Teaching Pronunciation*. Cambridge University Press 2004