

## Testing the Effectiveness of Pattern Drills in the Teaching of Sentence Structures in English

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper studies the effectiveness of using structure drills in the teaching of sentence structures in English. A group of 23 students of undergraduate classes was given 20 hours of grammar training in twenty sessions of structure drills with music treatment before and after each round of drill. The scores of the entry level test and the exit level test were compared to assess the effectiveness of structure drills with respect to different tests items in English grammar. A significant progress was observed in the exit level test. Hence, the use of structure drills with music treatment has been found quite effective in the teaching of English grammar.*

**Keywords:** Structure drills, sentence structures, behaviourism, audio-lingual method

### INTRODUCTION

Due to the changing needs of the non-native users of English, the focus of ELT scholarship shifted from reading, writing, and interpreting the written English as was the case with grammar translation method to using English communicatively with social and contextual suitability what Dell Hymes (1966) called “communicative competence.” In the changed scenario, grammar translation method was found to be inadequate as it did not address the communicative needs of the learners and concentrated only on translation and interpretation of texts. The latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a lot of research in the field of