

# BOOK REVIEW

Edward David Allen and Rebecca M. Valette,  
*Classroom Techniques: Foreign Languages  
and English as a Second Language.*

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1977

Price \$6.95

The title of this revised and expanded second edition indicates that Allen and Valette's book now includes materials specifically designed for the ESL classroom. There is a certain logic to gathering all "foreign" language teaching techniques together. However, some ESL teachers, especially the more linguistically grounded, may resist this yoking, feeling it to be a dilution rather than an enrichment. Such feelings may be reinforced by the book's format, which spreads itself among Spanish, German, French, and ESL materials designed for use on the elementary, intermediate and advanced levels. Still, ESL teachers of all orientations should find help here.

The authors advance no one basic method. Rather, their materials are suited to all methods. As they point out in the preface, even in the case of a brand new teacher who first meets with an established program, "the manner in which the content is presented to the student . . . is left to the determination of the teacher." And "manner" equals the "techniques" of the title. Techniques ranging from art work to organizing group activities to eavesdropping are organized according to a Dewey Decimal-like system for easy retrieval.

These techniques are distributed through four parts and an appendix of sample lesson plans. Part One gives an overview of the language classroom; Two uses traditional terminology to present techniques for teaching sound systems, grammar, and vocabulary; Three treats the developmental skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing; and Four offers techniques for introducing students to the target culture.

While experienced teachers may find the book a convenient supplement and rejuvenator, it is likely to be most attractive to new teachers who are accumulating their own arsenals of classroom techniques.

JAMES E. FORD

**12th Annual  
TESOL  
CONVENTION**



**Mexico City**

**April 4-9, 1978**