Autonomous Language Learning Guides and Supported Self Study Time

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FOR A FAIR SELECTION EVERYBODY HAS TO TAKE THE SAME EXAM: PLEASE CLimb THAT TREE
Presentation trajectory

- Autonomy and autonomous language learning
- Learner Guides and awareness
- Examples of learner advising
- Learning in and out of the classroom
What is autonomy?

- Situations
- Set of skills
- Inborn capacity
- Responsibility
- Right to determine direction

(Benson & Voller, 1997)

- Provide self-study situations
- Teach transferable skills
- Actively encourage learners
- Create opportunities
- Learners take control

(Dofs & Hobbs, 2011)
Is autonomy desirable?

Why?
Why not?
Reasons why autonomy is desirable

- Ideological: The right to be free to exercise own choice
- Psychological: People learn better when they are in charge of own learning
- Economic: It is too resource-consuming to always teach to individual needs (David Crabbe, 1993)
- Pedagogic: It provides more satisfactory answers to language learning challenges (Holec, 2009)
- Social: More responsible and critical members of communities (Benson, 2011)
Presentation trajectory

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- Learning in and out of the classroom
Increasing language learning awareness: Students’ autonomous learning

- Learning and Teaching
- Needs and Goals
- Self-knowledge
- Planning
- Style
- Motivation
- Strategies
- Skills
- Evaluation
Increasing language learning awareness: The classroom teacher

- Strategy training
- Skills practice
- Self-awareness activities

Supplementary learner training activities
Increasing language learning awareness: Learning centre activities

- Practice of transferrable skills
- Peer teaching
- Advising
- Self-access resources
Increasing language learning awareness:
Learning that is taking place

Students say they:

• Learn about useful resources
• Learn how to study
• Learn how to learn
• Learn to keep a record of what they have learnt
• Become more active
• Take more responsibility
“...for the first time I couldn't understand the system because some of my friends and I thought, because we paid, so we need to have teacher in our class from Monday to Friday every single hours, every single hour. But now what I've found was, if I study by myself, that's more helpful for me than from teacher. It's like if I'm sitting in the class then it is quite passive, I'm listening and I do some work but actually it's passive. But like if I sitting by myself I have my plan, aim, so that is very helpful.”
Increasing language learning awareness: Learning that is taking place

Students also say that they

• Improve language skills
• Improve their English ability
• Become more aware of their learning styles
• Become aware of weak and strong language areas
• Get help to plan for self-studies
• Get help to organise studies
• Get help to focus on preferred studies
Presentation trajectory

- Autonomy and autonomous language learning
- Learner Guides and awareness
- Examples of learner advising
- Learning in and out of the classroom
Increasing language learning awareness: Advising at CPIT

• Learning Facilitators - timetabled
• Thorough induction
• Study Guides
• Planning sheets
• Learning activities
• Fan teaching
Presentation trajectory

- Autonomy and autonomous language learning
- Learner Guides and awareness
- Examples of learner advising
- Learning in and out of the classroom
How in- and out-of-class learning successfully complement each other

Student comments

I like my self-study time in Learning Centre. I have a lot of resources that can help me to learn and review my study.

Learning Centre also have materials that can improve my weak point and allowed me to study by myself. Thank you !!!

This is nice place so I recommend to new students

The self-study guide gives me more ideas for learning English, grammar and vocabulary

I like doing self-study at Learning Centre because it helps me to focus on my study without any disruption.

Thank you !!!
Institutional level

Classroom - Teachers

Guides

Learning Centre Advisors

Students
Learner autonomy is a matter of **collaboration** ... The working together of teachers, advisors and students is vital to the development of learner autonomy.

**Awareness** is an integral element of learner autonomy and ... there are different ways of helping students to become aware of their learning and of setting and reaching their goals.

Autonomous learning is not a specific outcome, but an **ongoing process** which requires instructors and students to constantly evaluate and critically reflect on their teaching and learning in order to be successful.

*(Mynard & Ludwig, 2014)*
Conclusions/Recommendations

To make the most of using the ALL guides

- Time
- Committed teachers
- Learner training activities
- Knowledgeable staff
- Thorough induction
- Follow-ups in the classroom
References


College of Education

Learning and Teaching Languages Symposium

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