

Autonomy in External Learning: Developing Learners' Ability to Choose and Use Study Materials

The proliferation of on-line media has provided a rich resource for classroom-based language teaching, but do students know how to make use of these materials in autonomous study outside the educational context (i.e., "continued learning", Harmer 2001; "external learning", Field 2007)? This workshop will focus on methods to promote autonomy in students' external learning efforts. The first part of the workshop will review some important issues in learner autonomy, while the second part of the workshop will present an overview of a course designed to promote external learning and give data on students' opinions about what materials to select and how to use them. The final part of the workshop will give attendees a chance to share their ideas and experiences on promoting external learning. This workshop should be useful to teachers who wish to broaden the influence of their teaching beyond the educational context.