Pro Index | Journal of Innovation in Educational and Social Research
Volume: 1 Issue: 4 Year: 2023
ISSN: 2992-894X | http://journals.proindex.uz

THE ROLE OF SELF-STUDY IN LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Annotation: This article presents a comprehensive examination of the significance of self-study in learning a foreign language and in what ways it can be effective for students. The paper aims to identify the benefits of self-study and suggests some tips while doing self-study in learning foreign languages. By analyzing relevant literature, case studies, and expert recommendations, this research aims to contribute to the field of doing self-study in learning a foreign language.

Key words: self-study, motivation, self-determination, foreign languages, flexibility, improve.

INTRODUCTION

In today's interconnected world self-study has a crucial role to play in learning foreign languages because of several reasons. The paper provides an overview about the significant role of self-study in language learning process and embarks on an exploration of the multifaceted role of self-study by delving into how it catalyzes independent thinking, fosters self-motivation, and nurtures a lifelong disposition towards language learning.

Self-study is one of the key elements of learning a foreign language since learning a new language demands a lot of time and effort. There are so many reasons for doing self study in order to learn a new language. Throughout ages, the traditional way of teaching has been carried out and it is believed that the teacher is there to control you because he or she is more experienced than you and knows the appropriate ways (Yigit Salihoglu, 2019). But the world is changing and it has created some changes. In higher education, the focus has shifted from the acquisition of knowledge lo learning objectives and skills. This means that the majority of student learning time is spent independently working outside the classroom (Joselina Barbosa, A. Silva, Maria Amelia Ferreira, Milton Severo, 2017). Students have to do self-study in every area of education. There are various tools that can be used to do self-study in learning a new language. One of them is internet which has created a new dimension of studying on a much larger scale than ever before. It has enabled us the access to vast information resources and tools facilitating the search for specific know-how and communication in order to broaden our knowledge and raise our qualifications (Alina Gil, 2015). It

means internet can be a useful tool for doing self-study in learning foreign languages with its wide range of opportunities to information resources. In addition, it is expected that the active involvement of students in self-study time framework constitutes a training context that fosters learning conditions and grounds recognition of the necessity of lifelong learning (Monterio Angelica, Leite Carlinda, Rocha Cristina, 2013).

Just doing self-study in learning a foreign language does not mean the learner is doing it correctly and achieving good results. There are some features of a successful self-study which determine the result.

1. **Motivation.** From a psycho-educational perspective, 'motivation to learn' has been described as a student's energy and drive to learn (Susan Edgar, Sandra E Carr, Joannne Connaughton, Antonio Celenza, 2019). That is why students should always have a high motivation in learning foreign language.

2. **Flexibility**. This term can be envisaged both at psychological and physical level. At the psychological level, it can be defined as: 'willingness to change or compromise' (oxford dictionary, 2018). At the physical level, it is defined as 'the quality of bending easily without breaking' (P.Matthijs Bal, Michal Izak, 2020). Learners should not give up trying to reach a stage where their mental awareness gains confidence. Therefore, it is a crucial point to have a curious mind whose ability of perceiving new information is at the peak of it.

3. **Self-determination**. Self-determined behavior is volitional actions that enable one to act as the primary causal agent in one's life and to maintain or improve one's quality of life (Wehmeyer, 2005). In learning foreign languages students should always follow the way they are in and without being tired of a continuous struggle they face.

4. **Resource managing**. Typically, students who can be regarded as self-directed, should always have the ability to assess his or her own resources and update them regularly so that they will not lag behind the current mainstream of educational concepts.

5. **Time managing**. Time management plays a vital role in improving student's academic performance and achievements. Each and every student should have time management ability which includes setting goals, priorities, using time management mechanism and being organized in using time (Shazia Nasrullah, Muhammad Saqib Khan, 2015).

6. **Observing aptitude**. Learners should have the inner desire and ability to have an open-minded, clear perspective whose areas are not limited by restrictions in order to strengthen the language learning process and be aware of what is going on the educational world and around the learning environment.

7. **Confidence**. Confidence is priceless. By having confidence, a person can do anything with the belief that will succeed (Syahrial Karea, Dr. Asrial, Husni Sabil, Dr. Arsil, 2020). It is the essential key of way to success that could pave the way foe becoming a more self-restraint person in life. Accordingly, it is therefore can seem be related with the language learning.

There are some tips for doing self-study in learning a foreign language suggested by Melissa Miller (2021).

1. Make a realistic self-study plan before you start. Because forming a plan is the most important part in order to achieve your language goals.

2. Do a thorough job of researching content that aligns with your interests before you start. Before you get started, find some well-rated TV shows, movies, music, books that interest you so you do not get bored,

3. Create new Instagram, Twitter, and Reddit accounts that only follow users who speak your target language. Social media is an excellent way to see how native speakers interact online and what phrases and expressions they use to communicate – so use it!

4. Use apps like Tandem and Italk to talk to native speakers. Apps like iTalk and Tandem are free to use and connect you with native speakers of your target language for mutual benefit.

5. Make use of a language journal – do nor spend more time designing it than necessary. Creating a language journal can help you keep track of helpful vocabulary, important grammar points, and other notes you take when studying a foreign language.

6. Document your progress along the way. Do not wait until the end of your language goal period to look back on all you have learned. Give yourself regular reference points to show how far you have already come so that you stay energized and motivated to continue towards your goal.

7. Be your own David Attenborough. Narrating your actions as you do them is a sneaky-helpful way to practice talking about yourself.

8. Do not try to memorize words without proper context. You can be a walking dictionary, but if you do not know when and how to use all your new words then you will not be able to hold a proper conversation.

9. Treat yourself as you go. Rewarding yourself consistently throughout your language learning journey is such a critical part of making progress!

Conclusion

In conclusion, this article offers valuable insights into the role of self-study in learning foreign languages. By using suggested tips students can improve their self-study time and achieve the language learning goal. Students will know what kind of features a successful self-study learners have and how to implement them into their self-study plans by exploring this paper.

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