



Independent Learning and Self-Practice to Enhance English Language

Hina Patel¹, Dr. Shivkumar D. Singh²

¹Research Scholar, C.V.M. University, Vallabh Vidyanagar-388120, Gujarat, India
hinapatel139@gmail.com

²Assistant Professor, A.D. Patel Institute of Technology, New Vidyanagar-388121, Gujarat, India
shivkumaradit@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Self-Instructional Materials (SIM) play a major role in the teaching-learning process at all levels of education and training. They are materials specifically designed to enable learners to study partly or wholly by themselves and have been described as "Tutorial-In-Print" (Rowntree, 1998). This article aims at use of self-learning material to enhance English language.

Key-Words : Self-Instructional Materials (SIM), Self-Study, Independent learning, flexible learning, self-practice

Introduction

This talk is not a novel one. But everybody has something new to say. Perhaps it's a part of every student's life. i.e., self-learning or self-study or self-practice. It is quite similar in meaning but different in nature. Let's focus on the term 'independent learning.' One should be self-motivated enough to be successful in independent learning. It should start and finish in a complete manner. Every workaholic individual of any age loves to learn something new. Many outside factors make us remain away to learn course of action. i.e. paradoxical in nature. Who monitors our learning? At this point, we have to control our entire learning process and strategy. Our policy should be extrovert and fitted to the nature of learning. Because, we have to monitor our own entire learning process. Self-development is priority of such kind of learners who are self-motivated and ready to learn at any age, at any cost, and anywhere i.e., a part of individual language development program. Relatively, it is flexible learning.

Why flexible learning?

Mainly, Flexible learning delivers more scheduling options. The importance of flexible learning is related to major outcomes of flexible learning. Self-learning textbooks, pamphlets, handouts, worksheets, study worksheets, study guides, manuals, charts, images, ppt, audio-video and multimedia materials, podcast, and many more computer generated and self-directed language learning sources available to individual. As we know that language learning has no boundary, similarly, materials are immense. It does not replace a teacher, but it makes any individual a self-directed learner. Here, it means; when and how an individual wants to learn. After all, it depends upon the learner's choice and study requirements. Every individual has different motives or reason behind language learning. If any individual is self-motivated and keen to learn, he or she will go for flexible learning. If we talk about self-reading or listening, books, magazines, and newspapers are the prior to discuss about and worth to criticize. They are stimulator as well as stimulus. Nobody can avoid their value during self-learning of action. Here, reading to enjoy or reading to develop proficiency is altogether a different one in nature.

The focus is either self-development or gratification while reading books, magazines and newspapers. It's a matter of personal choice. Moreover, independent learners accomplish such kind of task to gain knowledge, collect information or simply go for pleasure. Sometimes, a teacher assigns some homework for self-practices because of their occupational commitment. But if a learner is an adult one and s/he has nothing to do with schools and colleges or institutions. What motivates them to learn and practice is the burning matter of discussion. Here, what motivates the individual is a noticeable theme of discussion.

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Motivation and self-practice

Any individual can use websites with interactive content and/or chat rooms, online discussion boards, CD-ROMs, broadcast teleconferencing and videoconferencing, self-learning text books and print resources in order to gain proficiency. And it is famous where the Open University is in huge demand, somehow poor financial conditions or less affordable expansive proficiency developing courses. Here, any individual can visit a local library or read pdf books. But the squabble can be occurred over here "how to schedule self-practice?". Making oneself available to self-learning is usually a mission of result-oriented learners. They are avid practitioners of selected subjects. The question usually arises if a teacher of English thinks about self-practice. The question is "what is the role of independent learners.? Because in a general sense, It's just a click away. Here, one need to simply google it. Or S/he can take the help of YouTube videos. i.e., very flexible in nature. The overall control is in learners' hand. Now let's discuss the role of independent learners who is actively engaged in learning.

The Role of independent learners

Independent learners are not teacher-centric

The priority of every learner is to identify learning needs. He or she should plan something concrete and arrange self-learning resources. It is a matter of self-development. They use various resources to develop proficiency. They are goal oriented. Equally possess curious attitude to learn something new. They are keen on the increase of curiosity, quick decision makers and passion oriented, they are their own stimulator, they have inbuilt sensitivity which makes them control their learning, their priority is to cheer self-motivation, mostly believe in self-examination, they understand their own responsibility and attain their own learning. They are active and usually regulate self-learning.

The Usefulness of Instructional Material

Omabe (2006) asserts that instructional materials are central in the teaching and learning of English language because they are used to compliment efficiency of a teacher, and effectiveness in lesson delivery. Esu, Enuokoha and Umoren (2004) affirmed that instructional materials facilitate learning of abstract concepts by helping to concretize ideas and stimulate learners' imagination. Moreover, instructional materials help to increase active participation in the learning process while saving teacher's energy, reducing the teacher centeredness in teaching. In the same vein, Mathew (2012) states that the use of instructional materials make teaching effective as it enables learners to participate actively in classroom instruction. All these views suggest that the use of instructional materials can improved students' performance. Olumorin, Yusuf, Ajidagba and Jekayinfa (2010) also observe that instructional materials help teachers to teach conveniently and the learners to learn easily without stress.

Conclusion

Thus, Responsibility, motivation and approach are related to study skills of the individual (self-directed learners) and schedule of learning. Because, it is confidence booster and promotes satisfaction. It is learning without the help of others and possess less dependency on others.

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