

THE ROLE OF LEARNER AUTONOMY IN DIFFERENT TEACHING METHODS

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT:

ARTICLE HISTORY:

Received: 02.06.2025

Revised: 03.06.2025

Accepted: 04.06.2025

KEYWORDS:

Learner autonomy,
teaching methods,
motivation, independent
learning, student-
centered education.

Because it promotes self-reliance, motivation, and lifelong learning abilities, learner autonomy is essential to contemporary education. This article examines the ways in which different teaching approaches - technologically enhanced, task-based, communicative, and traditional - incorporate and support learner autonomy. Additionally, it offers helpful suggestions for improving learner-driven practices in various educational settings.

INTRODUCTION. In the quickly evolving world of today, education must not only impart knowledge but also provide students the tools they need to take charge of their own education. Across pedagogical paradigms, learner autonomy—the ability to direct one's own learning process—is becoming more and more valued. The amount of autonomy that students are given varies greatly between learner-centered and teacher-centered classrooms.

Teachers who want to create motivated, self-directed learners must have a thorough understanding of how various teaching philosophies either support or undermine autonomy. This article provides ideas and ways to promote active student participation in learning by analyzing a number of popular instructional styles and their link to learner autonomy.

Autonomy in traditional teaching methods. Structured content delivery and teacher authority are frequently emphasized in traditional teaching approaches. Although this model offers discipline and clarity, it might restrict opportunities for self-directed learning. Generally speaking, students are passive learners with little opportunity to delve beyond the curriculum.

However, by using reflective techniques, promoting self-evaluation, and giving independent reading assignments, traditional classrooms can still foster learner autonomy.

Self-directed learning can be progressively encouraged by offering students structured opportunity to make decisions within the curriculum.

Autonomy in communicative language teaching (CLT). Communicative language teaching easily aligns with student autonomy by emphasizing interaction and meaning-making. In order to improve ownership of learning, students are encouraged to participate in pair or group projects, use language honestly, and offer ideas.

As facilitators, teachers help students set goals, track their progress, and get feedback in CLT settings. By encouraging students to assume accountability for their language learning, this approach cultivates a sense of independence within a nurturing environment.

Autonomy in task-based language teaching (TBLT). Language based on tasks by focusing education on real-world tasks, teaching further promotes autonomy. With little help from the teacher, students can solve problems, do assignments, or communicate. Students are given the freedom to choose how they cooperate and learn with this method.

Since students are required to manage time, roles, and resources, autonomy is inherent in the activities themselves. By imparting metacognitive techniques and providing options for task design and execution, educators can support this autonomy.

Autonomy in technology-enhanced learning. Learner autonomy is made possible by digital technologies in ways never before possible. Students can access resources at any time and from any location, customize their learning paths, and get immediate feedback using online platforms, mobile apps, and virtual classrooms.

But having so many options also necessitates tremendous self-control. For students to successfully navigate the online learning environment, teachers must assist them in developing digital literacy and critical thinking abilities. When pupils are assisted in establishing reasonable objectives, assessing sources, and considering their own development, autonomy flourishes.

To support autonomy in any teaching approach, educators can implement the following strategies:

Set Learning Goals: Help students define clear, achievable objectives to guide their studies.

Encourage Reflection: Use journals, self-assessment tools, or group discussions to help students think critically about their learning.

Offer Choices: Let students choose from different topics, formats, or resources to match their interests and learning styles.

Teach Learning Skills: Equip students with time management, note-taking, and self-monitoring techniques.

Use Technology Thoughtfully: Incorporate tools that promote independence but provide structure and feedback where needed.

CONCLUSION. A key component of successful and long-lasting education is learner autonomy. All teaching strategies can include components that empower students, even

when the degree to which they are stressed varies. By carefully modifying teaching strategies, teachers may develop self-sufficient students who can succeed in both academic and real-world settings. Autonomy is a gradual process that calls for trust, patience, and scaffolding. However, students become more involved, self-assured, and ready for lifelong learning when they take charge of their education.

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