AUTONOMY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS:
A SCOPING REVIEW OF RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

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KEY TERMS

Learner autonomy:

Learner autonomy refers to the ability and capacity of learners to learn and reflect independently, making decisions about their learning and taking independent actions in the process of learning.

WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM THIS SECONDARY RESEARCH?

How do researchers conceptualise, and evaluate learner autonomy in and outside of the classroom?

WHAT EVIDENCE IS SUMMARISED?

A total number of

61

studies were analysed in this scoping review

WHAT DOES IT FIND?

- Learners' motivation, self-efficacy, metacognition, beliefs, anxiety, and awareness can contribute to their levels of autonomy

- To help learners become more autonomous, it is important to develop not only learners' language proficiency but also their language learning strategies

- In-class instructions for learner autonomy are usually didactic

- Out-of-class instructions may include language advising, using self-study tools, and harnessing the affordances of mobile learning systems

- Formative assessment can be potentially useful for developing language learners' autonomy

- Technology can encourage learners to become more active participants and collaborators

HOW CAN I USE THE FINDINGS IN MY TEACHING?

- To help language learners become autonomous, teachers need to make time for in-class and out-of-class activities that develop learners' language learning strategies and self-regulated learning skills

- Teachers should openly advise learners on different strategies they can adopt in their language learning process outside the classroom

- Utilising technology, such as digital games, cloud-based learning tools, various websites, and mobile learning systems, can help learners become more independent in their learning

- Teachers should be patient in supporting learners toward becoming autonomous, as it requires fundamental and deep changes in their belief and identity

- Not all learners are the same, and one strategy might not be for all learners. Therefore, teachers should be fully aware of their learners' characteristics and studying habits, so that they can direct learners' journey toward autonomy more effectively

TESOL GRAPHICS

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