

Special Issue Commentary
Learner Autonomy and New Learning Environment

Hayo Reinders, Middlesex University
Cynthia White, Massey University

Reviewed by

Fatemeh Behjat and Hamide Bardestani
Islamic Azad University, Abade Branch, Abadeh, Iran

Autonomy and technology are two dimensions in language education. They use for both learners and teachers to achieve their educational goals. In some cases autonomy considers as one of this goal and it can be used as an instrument to achieve educational goal. The effect of technology on learners' autonomy is clear in teaching process.

In this article, authors explain the precise information very carefully with various examples from different scientists and researchers that help readers to get the points about the topic. For example : authors portray different aspects or dimensions of relationship between autonomy and technology by different researchers such as Collentine that investigates two aspects of autonomy, independent action and decision making, in 3D environment with Spanish learners, Hafner and Miller , the effect of technology as a bridge between the structured environment of the course with the unstructured out of class learning environment of students in Hong-Kong , Lees article that use of blogs and face to face interview by 16 American undergraduate students and the last one is work of Nielso , role of materials for self-study with highly motivated American adult learner. These concrete examples show readers different aspects of the topic from different parts of the world. In each paragraph, they mention the affordance and constraint about technology and autonomy in educational setting that it is very useful for teachers, syllabus designers, practicing teachers and every people that are eager to know about effects of technology on autonomous learning. For example: in paragraph three & four, authors introduce new technologies such as computer and mobile technology for increasing autonomy as an affordance and also in paragraph six of the article, readers be familiar with the constraints that technology puts on autonomy that it ignores the direct attention of learners in learning a language.

Although this article explains the topic simply as it is mentioned in second paragraph of this article review, but in each article, conclusion and last point that author tells is very important for readers. In this article, authors don't come to definite conclusion about topic clearly. Today, role of autonomy and technology is very important in teaching process. Authors should show readers that how these two elements can improve the teaching language process. This article can present a lot of information to inexperience researchers and help them to get the first point about the topic. It is like a ladder that researchers can move from the stages to achieve the final goal.