

Thursday 4 June

3:20pm - 4:00pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y306

Presentation Title: Low Proficiency, High Proficiency Students and the Role of Self-access

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Ann Mayeda, Osaka Shoin Women's University Prof Yoshiyuki Fujisawa, Osaka Shoin Women's University Prof Michihiko Komori, Osaka Shoin Women's University
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Theme:	Self-directed and self-access learning
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

In recent years, the widening discrepancy between the ability of low proficiency students and high proficiency students has made it increasingly difficult to teach in teacher-centered classes. In response to this, the presenters will describe the emergence of a self-access center at Osaka Shoin Women's University in Japan and discuss its role in addressing the needs of a more polarized student body. The stakeholders in the SAC have attempted to deal with the varied aptitudes and motivation levels by adapting materials in consideration of what, where, when and how students choose to learn. Issues relating to how effective the SAC has been in assisting students in their learning and its role in helping students move toward more personally involved and hence, self-directed study programs will be explored. Individual communication and the use of 'successful' peer role models as advisors with L1 support were found to be integral in introducing the idea of autonomy to low proficiency students while higher proficiency students saw benefit in fulfilling their role as peer 'mentors', thereby increasing autonomous learning behaviors for both groups.

Biodata

Ann Mayeda teaches at Osaka Shoin Women's University and is the Director of their Self-access Center. She has her MA in TEFL from the University of Birmingham and is a graduate of the University of Washington. Her research interests are related to autonomy, self-access and learner development, foreign language development in young learners, teacher training, and bilingual language development.

Yoshiyuki Fujisawa teaches at Osaka Shoin Women's University and is a professor in the English department. He has his MA in American literature from Osaka City University. Besides American literature, his research interests are related to extensive reading in and outside the class, motivation, and learner development

Michihiko Komori teaches at Osaka Shoin Women's University and is a professor in the English Department. He has his MA in English Linguistics from Osaka City University. His research interests are related to learner autonomy and developing self-access centers for learning as well as cognitive linguistics study.