

**Poster Title:** Building an environment for maximizing language learning

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### **Abstract**

'Not everything can be taught in class' (Nunan, 1988). This issue becomes more apparent at institutions where teaching contact hours are limited, and where the majority of students do not learn language as their major field of study. This poster presentation will introduce a collaborative project between two universities in Japan that aims to create an environment focused on English language proficiency development for non-English major university students. It will provide information and visual aids about the Bunkyo English Communication Center (BECC) at Hiroshima Bunkyo Women's University where learners are encouraged to take charge of their learning and provided with social environments to use and develop language inside and outside the classroom. The poster presentation will introduce a concept of how language learning is integrated in 3 areas: the classroom, the Self-Access Learning Center, and the wider language use environment. The classroom design and materials encourage social interaction, and the Self-Access Learning Center promotes student responsibility and control of learning. Finally, a social space and café with a student 'circle' network where independent language use is encouraged results in a micro 'English' social environment located within a 'Japanese' educational institution.

### **Biodata**

Gene Thompson is from New Zealand. He has been working for Kanda University of International Studies since 2004. As a Language Education Consultant, he manages collaborative curriculum projects with national and private Universities in Japan, and maintains an interest in curriculum development, course evaluation, and assessment.

Lee Atkinson has taught English to speakers of other languages in Hong Kong, Australia and Japan. She is currently teaching English at Hiroshima Bunkyo Women's University in Japan. Her research areas of interest include: second language writing, autonomy and CALL. She has a Masters of Education in TESOL and is currently completing her Doctor of Education.