

Friday 5 June

10:00am - 10:40am

Room: Block Y, Room Y306

Presentation Title:

Learning to think in an L2 through blogging

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Dr Antonie Alm, University of Otago
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Theme:	E-learning initiatives
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

Van Lier's (2007) concept of action-based teaching reemphasizes the need to extend language learning beyond classroom practice and to respect the learner as "a person with a social, embodied mind, with dreams, worries and beliefs". In this presentation I will argue that L2 blogging can support language learners in their ability to think in the target language. L2 thinking engages learners more actively in the learning process (de Guerrero 2004), supports them in their need to develop a voice in the L2 (Van Lier 2007) and fosters language learner autonomy (Little 2007). The study uses blog data of 20 intermediate L2 learners to illustrate and discuss the use of individual learner blogs as a tool for public reflective writing. The blogging data provides interesting insights into the writing process and into learner perceptions of L2 thinking. The study shows that blogging helped to raise awareness of L2 thinking which in turn had a positive impact on personal engagement in the learning process and on writing production.

References:

- de Guerrero, M. (2004). Early stages of L2 inner speech development: what verbal reports suggest. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics* (14)1. 90-112.
- Little, D. (2007). Language Learner Autonomy: Some Fundamental Considerations Revisited. *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching* 1(1). 14-29.
- Van Lier, L. (2007) Action-based Teaching, Autonomy and Identity. *Innovation in Language and Teaching*, 1(1), 46-65.

Biodata

Antonie Alm is a senior lecturer at the University of Otago in New Zealand where she teaches courses in German language and culture and in CALL. She has written on motivational aspects in Internet-based language learning and is currently exploring learner-centered use of Web 2.0 technologies for foreign language learning.