

**Thursday 4 June**

**2:20pm - 3:00pm**

Room: Block Y, Room Y403

**Presentation Title:** Promoting dialogue, reflection and learner responsibility in the classroom

<b>Presenter / Co-presenters:</b>	Lee Atkinson, Hiroshima Bunkyo Women's University
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<b>Theme:</b>	Autonomy in the classroom
<b>Presentation Type:</b>	Paper presentation

### **Abstract**

Ideally classrooms should be social environments in which students use and acquire language in interactive ways. However, encouraging learners to use English in the classroom can be challenging for educators in English as a Foreign Language contexts. In these contexts, learners are often required to complete mandatory English courses, and as such they display little motivation or enthusiasm for communicating in English. This paper examines how a university teacher in Japan has attempted to address this issue through the creation of tasks that foster increased dialogue opportunities between teachers and learners and tasks that place the responsibility for using English in the classroom on the learners themselves. It explores and provides practical examples of how learners were encouraged to use English in the classroom through the completion of self assessment and reflective tasks. It also highlights the role of the instructor in creating an environment that promotes self-responsibility among learners. This paper concludes with an examination of the results of questionnaires and focus group discussions that illustrate students' perceptions of these methods.

### **Biodata**

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.