



Independent Learning in Secondary School - Key to Lifelong Learning

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Nowadays, when schools are facing the problem of what students should learn at school as the amount of information is growing incredibly fast, students should focus on acquiring skills they will need in future to become life-long learners. Lifelong learning is the key to Europe's economic development through every individual's access to lifelong learning in the changing world. The basis of lifelong learning is independent learning skills acquired at school.

A research was done to find out the possibilities of developing skills of independent learning during regular English classes in secondary school. The methodological basis of the research was formed by the social constructivism theory which claims that learning is a construction process based on personal experience and social environment; social learning theory which is based on the ideas that people learn by observing others and human functioning is viewed as the product of a dynamic interplay of personal, behavioral, and environmental influences; conception of humanistic pedagogy on co-operation between the teacher and the student forming a favourable learning environment; and theories on different learning styles.

An assumption was made that upper-secondary school students would develop their independent learning skills when guided by a teacher who makes use of systemic approach in teaching so that students

- understand the essence of independent learning,
- learn to set individual short-term and long-term goals,
- become aware of and can use appropriate learning strategies,
- are able to use assessment in their learning.

An action research was carried out to search for the most appropriate teaching techniques and work out a model of development of independent learning skills in upper-secondary school.

The results of the research showed that students can become independent learners when guided by a teacher who uses systemic approach which enables students improve their independent learning skills. Even more, the research showed that the development of independent learning skills resulted in higher proficiency in English.