THE CREATION OF THE SECOND-LANGUAGE SELF VIA AUTONOMOUS LEARNING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN JAPAN

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Abstract - This paper seeks to build on the research of Dornyei and Gardner on the creation of the ideal second-language self. Students at this private science university in Japan are required to take only one semester of Basic English Communication classes as freshmen students. The intention is to support their English studies by helping them to construct an image of themselves as active lifelong English learners.
A survey was conducted in the first week of classes to establish the extent to which the learners are aware of the various English-learning resources available to them, both on campus and online. The findings indicated a low awareness. A follow-up survey was conducted at the end of the course to reinforce the information and to introduce various methods to build up their language skills outside the classroom.
The on-campus activities such as English conversation classes, graded readers, English movie events and various kinds of English music are introduced along with the wide range of online materials such as apps, websites etc. It is hoped that by familiarizing themselves with these language-learning opportunities, students will come to see themselves as the architects of an ideal second language learner.This presentation aims to provide guidance to teachers of English as a Foreign Language that can be used in third-level classrooms to improve the long-term benefits for students of language learning.

Keywords - The Second-Language Self/ International Posture/ Student Motivation/ Language-Learning Materials/