

Selectd Papers from the
International Conference on
Autonomy and Language Learning:
Maintaining Control

自主性语言学习： 开放与管理

庞继贤 范捷平 主编

浙江大學出版社

◆ 浙江大学汤水谦学科建设发展基金资助

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责任编辑 张 琛 诸葛勤
出版发行 浙江大学出版社
(杭州浙大路 38 号 邮政编码 310028)
(E-mail: zupress@mail.hz.zj.cn)
(网址: <http://www.zjupress.com>)
经 销 浙江省新华书店
排 版 浙江大学出版社电脑排版中心
印 刷 德清县第二印刷厂
开 本 787mm×960mm 1/16
印 张 14.75
字 数 323 千
版 印 次 2005 年 3 月第 1 版 2005 年 3 月第 1 次印刷
书 号 ISBN 7-900691-85-5/G·252
定 价 28.00 元

Foreword

We all know that in a world, characterized by globalization, and in which international cooperation and the transfer of goods, of technology, and of knowledge as well as the exchange of people are of an ever growing importance, the knowledge and the use of foreign languages belong to the necessary qualifications for those dealing with these processes. More and more people all over the world have to, and want to, learn languages other than their own mother tongues. Therefore the processes and the organization of language teaching and language learning have to be studied, analysed and improved, in order to provide both teachers and learners with the best possible means and opportunities to reach their goals. To do so, the international exchange of ideas, experiences and research findings is a necessity, and it is a great source of optimism for me, to find so many prestigious and experienced international scholars, as in this book, joined in the common effort to find answers and solutions to the challenges of improving language teaching and learning in a changing world.

Every educational system is part of a given society, and as a consequence of this, is subjected to all the influences and developments that characterize and change this society. The teaching of languages is an integral part of the educational system of society, regardless on which level it takes place, and therefore is also subjected to its developments and changes. Different countries and different educational systems try to tackle the problems involved in this process in different ways. Different social and economic settings, not to mention different cultural and political systems, give different frames for all educational processes within their societies. That means that also the teaching and learning of languages, when institutionally planned, organized and conducted, take place under certain defining conditions or even constraints. To discuss the ways and means of the appropriate organization of educational and especially language teaching processes, has to take into consideration these social conditions. Therefore, in the international discourse on language teaching, it is not easy, perhaps even impossible, to find a common understanding of the terms “autonomy” and “maintaining control” in educational processes.

Following a philosophical as well as a sociological concept, in which society and the individual stand in a dialectical relation to each other—they are at the same time

opponents as well as of necessity complementary items—the notion of autonomy, not only in connection with language learning, but even in this, includes the question: “Autonomous—with respect to what and to whom?” Autonomy, even in language learning, is the complementary counterpart to the regulations and rules of a given system, and connected to them as the two sides of a coin. There can be no autonomy without reference to a given set of norms and rules. So, in order to advocate autonomy, to declare autonomy as an educational aim, we have to refer to norms and rules as well, as we are about to modify them or even declare them as no longer valid. To be a member of a given society, to raise children within this society therefore means, to find an equilibrium between adherence to norms and rules, in order to keep society as a whole working, and autonomy, as an ingredient of personal development of the individual. The notion of autonomy therefore is not only a philosophical and a social one, but also an educational one. And as societies differ in their social, cultural, economic, political settings, this equilibrium differs, and the notion of autonomy has a different meaning in different societies. Can we therefore expect the notion of autonomy in language learning to be the same all over the world?

The same is true for the question of maintaining control: who is it that maintains control, and over what or over whom, and to what purpose? And who or what is questioning, or even challenging, the maintenance of control? In a rapidly changing world not only different societies change, and with them their educational systems and concepts, and also the aims, the means and the ways of learning languages are changing rapidly, but also the understanding of autonomy together with the concept of maintaining control. In this context and with respect to the socially and culturally defined meanings of the terms “autonomy” and “maintaining control”, the teaching of foreign languages acquires an additional dimension. Its purpose is not only to promote the skills of communication in a given language, but also the development of the learners’ personalities and their consciousness and acceptance of social responsibility. The papers presented in this book give a good impression of the diversity of approaches to these questions.

Our understanding of language acquisition changes, due to research into these processes as well as to in-depth research in the foreign language classroom. The different parts, teachers and students are used to play, are changing due to changes in society, in teaching aims, methods, means and technology. The rather comfortable if questionable argument of the culturally defined traditional teaching and learning methods and their lasting influence on modern language teaching and learning, has to be reconsidered. And in this context, answers have to be found to

the question, whether teaching methods and concepts of classroom organization can be “exported” across cultural borders. The questions of autonomous versus tutorial language teaching and learning, of blended learning and of the shift of responsibility from teacher to learner, which stand in the core of the papers included in this book, open a vast range of opinions and problems.

Learner autonomy in language learning nowadays is widely held to be a positive notion, often closely related to the notions of creativity and individuality, although the meaning of this term very often remains obscure. Here also, the above raised question: “Autonomous—with respect to what and to whom” has to be asked. Does it mean autonomous with respect to the teacher, to a curriculum, to the selection of teaching/learning means and media, to the organization of the learning process or the definition of its aims and results? And can we claim to have a clear understanding of the affiliated term of “blended learning”—another key word in modern language teaching methodology and theory—when the meaning of autonomy is not clearly defined?

It is not only social and economic changes that offer challenges to the understanding and the practice of language learning. New media, the Internet, and other technologies open possibilities that only a short time ago nobody would have thought feasible. The language classroom acquires a completely new dimension. Language learning can be based on and organized with media that the teacher has no influence on, often not even knowledge of. On the other hand these media, when carefully and successfully included into the preparation, conducting and evaluation of language teaching, offer new ways and methods of teaching that give the teacher space to concentrate more closely on the single students and their progress or problems. The teacher can regain his options and his responsibility for the organizing and conducting language teaching as an educational process, and not only as the promotion of communicative skills. These possibilities pose challenges to all of us, with which we have to cope, new concepts and aims of teacher training being but one of them. There arise questions concerning the self-discipline and the responsibility of teachers as well as of students. The development of students’ consciousness of their own responsibility for the success or failure of their learning results becomes an item in the language teaching class. New teaching materials and concepts of teaching as well as of learning have to be developed. And this again poses a challenge for classroom research as well as for research on language acquisition. The question of autonomy in relation to the maintenance of control gains importance.

I do not want to decide, whether the papers assembled in this volume will be able to find all the answers to our questions, but I am convinced that they will have

a major impact on the international discourse on language teaching and learning, and will offer important contributions, from which language teaching and language learning will vastly profit in the future.

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Dean

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Hangzhou

December 2004

前言

自主学习在语言及外语学习策略和外语教学论上的重要性毋庸置疑。西方国家上个世纪 20 年代就有人在改革教育学框架内提倡自主学习,从 70 年代开始,欧美各国学术界就开始在语言习得、二语习得以及外语学习的教学论上对自主学习理论展开了广泛的探索,这些探索还涉及到心理学、社会学、文化学等相关学科的理论,并积累了多方面的成果,逐步形成了认知心理、建构主义、批判解放等语言自主学习理论构架。总的说来,这些成果大致分布在三大领域:第一是基础理论研究,它涉及普通教育学理论范畴,即从语言及外语教育的理念、目的和受众出发奠定自主学习的认知心理、社会学和文化学理论基础;第二是在此基础之上的外语教学论领域的研究,探索自主学习与外语教学大纲的指导思想,目的、对象、内容、方法、手段、媒介和过程的关系及其一般性与特殊性原理,其中关于电子语料库及计算机多媒体网络条件下外语自主学习的研究日益受到关注;第三则是跨文化和交叉学科研究,比如从文化话语学等视角出发,综合探索外语自主学习的社会文化机制。

2004 年 6 月,浙江大学外国语言文化与国际交流学院和香港科技大学语言中心在杭州联合召开了一次国际学术研讨会,海内外学者和研究人员 200 多人就上述三个领域的诸多问题进行了对话。在研讨会上,中外学者就外语教学本体、教与学、动机与功效、课堂和课外、教师和学生、教学内容与形式、教学过程与方法手段等关系提出了问题,进行了学术讨论,展示了各种模式和方法,显现出目前国内外外语教学中自主学习理论和实践的基本走向。本书为这次国际研讨会的中文论文集,所收录的论文集中反映了目前中国高等院校外国语言学及应用语言学界对在中国国情下的外语自主学习理论与实践作出的思考以及最新研究成果。

近年来,中国经济的迅猛崛起和国际地位的大幅度提升开始逐渐影响我国学术界对教育的整体反思,我国高等教育界普遍产生了一个共识,那就是经济的国际化需求必定导致人才的国际化需求,因此,对于外语教学来说,培养具有高技能外语能力的创新人才成为了中国高校教学的一致呼声。而我国虽然在 20 世纪 90 年代就提出了“以学生为中心”的外语教学理念和模式,并为之开发了一系列的教材,但是外语自主学习的理论与方法、理念与实践却仍然长期落后于发达国家。本书收集的论文不但表现出作者对外语自主学习的理论探索、自主性的培养和信息技术与自主学习等方面极大的关注,而且能够看出他们近年来学习和借鉴国外的理论和经验,在中国高校提倡和实施外语自主学习方面所做出的不懈努力。我们可以说,中国高校目前对外语自主学习的研究正在不断地接近国际上语言自主学习领域的研究水平。

借鉴国外语言自主学习的理论和实践经验固然不错,但在中国高校实施外语自

主学习时尚存有几个容易走入的误区,应该得到重视并加以避免。

第一,国外许多国家的语言自主学习理论和方法是建筑在其各自的教育、社会、政治体制和文化传统之上的,有极强的历史性、系统性和整体性,切忌驴唇马嘴,简单照搬,而应审时度势,结合国情,按需利用。在整个社会教育系统工程中,外语自主学习与其他领域或各学科之间的自主学习关系密切相关,与基础教育和高等教育过程中的自主学习能力培养密切相关,与自主性的培养和自主学习的密切相关,更与如何转换传统教学话语控制权问题密切相关。假如我们忽视上述外语自主学习的历史性、系统性和整体性,忽视学习者的动机和社会需要,那么我们在高校提倡和实施外语自主学习往往只能是事倍功半,达不到应有的效果和目的。

第二,自主学习的确是学习者独立自主以及对整个学习过程进行自我控制的能力,但语言自主学习不应该是简单个体意义上孤立的、教学论意义上单一的、无社会化的学习。我们提倡的语言自主学习应该与培养学生的社会责任和合作精神结合起来,应该与提高课程及教学内容的自主性结合起来。固然,外语自主学习提倡学习者对自己的学习及结果负责,因为学习者都是不同的个体,每个个体的认知是不同的。然而应当充分注意到,自主学习能力同时也应是培养学习者从社会责任出发独立自主地作出决定、学会与其他社会成员共处和合作的能力。这一能力涉及到学习者批判和判断能力、社会交际能力、坚持和论证某一个观点的能力,以及改正自己观点的能力等等。

第三,提倡外语自主学习不应等同于提倡某种单纯的功利行为,简单地把学习任务及责任卸置于学习者一方,而置其他教学参与者如政府部门、教学管理机构、教师、家庭、社会政治环境、文化话语等因素的互动于不顾,不应单纯地强调学生对语言学习过程的控制而忽视对语言教学过程其他诸因素的调控。在数字网络信息时代,语言自主学习自然不能离开数字网络技术,但应避免单纯依靠数字网络技术而忽视作为人类学习过程之一的语言自主学习自身的科学性。这里所说的科学性就是外语教学论的一般规律性,即在学校教育的框架下有控制地进行外语自主学习的科学规律。因此,外语教学论范畴内关于自主学习特殊策略和方法应予以足够的重视,对自我控制和他者控制的诸因素以及它们之间的辨证关系予以足够的重视,比如自主学习的内容应该是自我控制和他者控制之间的桥梁,体现学习者主动性和(他者)所设定的学习目标之间的和谐统一;又如他者控制的学习和练习形式应遵循自主学习的特殊性,充分调动学习个体的发现性和创造性等等。

浙江大学外国语言文化与国际交流学院不仅有源远流长的外语本科、研究生教学,它还担负着这所中国百年名校的几万莘莘学子的外语教学,同时又担负着外国语言文化领域的科研重任。学院的学科建设和人才培养正在朝着国际研究性大学外语学科的目标发展。新近,学院成立了十二个研究所,把教学和科研融合在一起,在教学科研创新和国际化的道路上迈出了重要的一步。在这样的情形下,2004年的“自主性语言学习:开放与管理”国际学术研讨会给浙大外语教学改革和创新型人才的培养带来了新的思路,给学院外国语言学及应用语言学研究带来了一股清新的学术空气。在

此我谨代表浙江大学外国语言文化与国际交流学院向参加 2004 杭州自主性语言学习研讨会的全体国内外学者和研究人员表示感谢,对香港科技大学语言中心的通力合作表示感谢,同时也感谢浙江大学汤永谦学科建设发展基金对研讨会的召开和这本论文集的出版予以的支持。

范捷平

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2004 年 12 月

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研究型大学的外语自主学习与 创造性人才培养

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摘要:外语自主学习在研究型大学教育理念和教学模式改革中,特别是对培养高层次创造性人才意义重大。本文从建构主义和认知学习理论出发,对外语自主学习和创造性人才的概念展开讨论,并以此为基础探讨我国研究型大学外语自主学习的特点及其在研究型大学培养创造性人才中的作用。

关键词:自主学习;认知学习;创造性学习;建构主义

Abstract: Learner autonomy in foreign-language studies is of great significance in that it gives expression to educational ideals and reforms of teaching models in research universities, especially in cultivating creatively talented people at high levels. Using constructive and cognitive theories of learning as a point of departure, the present paper seeks to probe into the concepts of learner autonomy in foreign-language studies and of creatively talented people, and then proceeds to explore the characteristics of learner autonomy regarding foreign-language studies in Chinese research universities and the role of learner autonomy in cultivating creatively talented people in research universities.

Key words: learner autonomy; cognitive learning; creative learning; constructivism

一、引言

21 世纪的中国高等教育步入了一个高速发展的阶段,我国高等教育的逐步大众化及研究型大学的崛起必将导致全民素质的大幅提升。同时,人才培养和人才兴国的战略将对我国社会的经济、政治、文化可持续性发展提供根本保证。因此,深化和加速高校自身改革发展,强调研究型大学在国家知识创新体系中的作用,加速人才培养已是迫在眉睫的任务。在 2003 年中国大学校长联谊会杭州论坛^①上,国内十所著名大学校长共同提出了研究型大学建设应注重知识创新、技术创新、教育创新、理论创新

^① 参加论坛的有上海交通大学校长谢绳武、北京大学校长许智宏、西安交通大学副校长阎健群、复旦大学校长王生洪、南京大学校长蒋树声、香港大学校长徐立之、香港中文大学校长金耀基、香港科技大学校长朱经武、浙江大学校长潘云鹤、清华大学校长顾秉林。

和制度创新的口号。如果我们把提高我国研究型大学学生外语综合能力视为创建世界一流大学的重要条件之一,那么研究型大学人才培养方式中的一个关键点就是大力提倡以学生为中心的教育理念,通过学生的自主学习来达到培养创新型人才的目的。这里需要提出的是:什么是自主学习?外语自主学习的特点是什么?自主学习与创造性人才培养又有什么关系?

二、自主学习与人才培养

自主学习其实并不是一个全新的概念,在孔子和孟子的教育思想中,点拨式教学和自主学习就占据了重要的位置(Mitschian, 1991:56)。自主学习概念在现代教育学中的提出则与现代教育理念和教学论(Didaktik)革新有着极其密切的联系,欧美发达国家上世纪中叶以来大力提倡的以学生为中心的教学理念,以及自主学习,其根基就在现代教育学和教学论的革命之中。比如,德国当代解放教育学和批判建构教学论主要创始人 W. Klafki 就提出“把学校教育范畴内‘学习’的主次关系颠倒过来,从教师的‘教’转变到学生的‘学’上来。学生应该在教师的引导下学会各种认知、判断、评价、行为的能力,学会自己去学习的能力。这就是批判建构教学论提倡的发现式学习”(范捷平, 2003:116)。Klafki 在“哈贝马斯话语批判理论”的基础上把批判反思、自觉明智、求真务实、社会责任等能力视为现代教育的根本目标,从而为自主学习奠定了理论基础。

我们可以把外语自主学习的基本定义做如下表述:不是由教师,而是由外语学习者根据各自不同的需求、学习动机和学习目标,积极主动、有创建性地独立决定自己的学习内容、学习方法、学习过程和学习形式。外语自主学习是学习者一种有意识地计划、监控、实行和测试反思的学习过程。

外语自主学习的心理前提是,学习者对自己的学习负责,作为个体有意识或无意识地利用各自不同的学习方法和习惯将已经学会的外语知识与新的语言现象结合起来学习。从建构主义学习理论的视角出发,我们可以认为,学习者都是不同的个体,每个个体的认知是不同的,但个体都有以下一些共同的基本特征:个体都是结构自决的,也就是说,个体的学习行为不是简单地由外界刺激而产生的条件反射,而是从每个人的内部心理结构出发而形成的,如学习者会对从生活环境中获得的诱导和激励机制进行反思或思考,某一社会形态的教育、心理、经济、政治等因素给学习个体所带来的利益也会影响外语学习。

从这一观点出发我们可以看到,以学习者为主体的自主学习与人才的本质内涵基本相符。人才不以学历、资历、身份和地位为衡量标准,人才的本质属性除了必备的道德和知识素养之外,还包括三个基本点:第一,人才具有特殊性;第二,人才必须是创造性的;第三,人才必须有独立自主地合理整合、调配和组织资源的能力。特殊性也就是指人才的不可替代性,不可替代性程度越高,人才的质量越高。创造性就是指人才的创造性劳动成果大于其他社会成员,优秀的人才必须是创造能力强的劳动者。独立自主地整合、优化资源是指人才的决断和组织、领导能力,人才能够比他人更有效

地利用手中拥有的资源。这三个方面恰恰都是自主学习所强调的基本能力。因此,自主学习可以促进人才的培养,可以促使潜在的人才成长为真正的人才。

三、自主学习与学习的社会实践性

目前国际和国内外语教学理论界对于自主学习的认识并不完全一致,从不同的视角出发对自主学习产生了不同的理解。比如,有人主要从学习方法和手段出发理解自主学习,也有人从教育学或社会政治学等不同角度来理解。因此,我们在理解自主学习的时候,应该明确自主学习概念不同的侧重面,以免产生误解。一般说来,在对自主学习的理解上存在着五种不同的视角:第一,学习者在一定的学习环境下完全独立地学习;第二,将已经学会和运用语言知识融会贯通;第三,指开发学习者与生俱来,但在社会教育体系中受到压抑的学习能力;第四,指学习主体行使自我决断力进行学习;第五,指独立自主地决定自己学习的权利和学习的方向。只有把这五种视角结合起来才能全面地理解现代教育学意义上的自主学习。

如果我们从 Klafki(1993:18)的批判建构教学论学习目标出发来理解自主学习,那就是把自主学习看成是培养独立自主地做决定、学会与他人共处和合作的能力。这一能力涉及到“批判和判断能力、交际能力、坚持和论证某一个观点的能力,以及改正这一观点的能力”。在这里我们可以看到,自主学习一定也是社会性的互动学习,因此在强调外语自主学习的同时,我们应该充分注意避免片面地理解自主学习的本质含义,把自主学习错误地理解为个别的、孤立的、非互动性的学习。特别是因为语言的本质功能是交际功能,因此在外语自主学习上更应该注意学习的社会性,提倡合作性和集体互动性的自主学习,从外语学习方法论上看,自主学习不排斥外语教学论中的各种方法论。外语自主学习不意味着简单的死记硬背或者单打独斗,在注重 CALL 和多媒体网络外语自主学习中心(Self-access Center)的外语自主学习中,要更加注重如网络交际、eTandem 等方法,培养学习者的外语实际运用能力,把语言学习的重点从掌握语言知识转移到驾驭语言交际能力上面来。

认知学习和建构学习理论强调学习者在所有信息处理和学习过程中的特性和自我责任,因为外语学习具有极大的实践特点,成功的外语学习必须是一个积极主动的参与过程,同时外语学习过程又因人而异,不同的个性会有不同的学习结果。所以外语学习者之间的互动极其重要,外语学习者所采用的学习方法和策略,总结学习经验,有效监控自我学习成果是学习行为的决定性因素。外语自主学习提倡给予学生自由的学习空间,但不是提倡单纯的自由学习,外语自主学习的基本点是以学生为主体的学习理念。鉴此,国内研究型大学外语教学中应该注意逐渐实施全面学分制,加大学生自主选课的力度,增设选修课程等。

四、自主学习与创造性人才培养

创造性(creativity)概念源于希腊神话和基督教意义上神的“创造”(create)。历史因素造成这一概念在现代意义的使用中常常显得模糊不清,其主要原因是对此概念