

## ASSISTANT TEACHER'S ROLE IN AUTONOMOUS LEARNER METHOD

**Xabibullayev Xakimxo'ja Xamidulla o'g'li**

Namangan State Foreign Language Institute

Foreign Language and Literature

E-mail: [xabibullayevxakimxoja@gmail.com](mailto:xabibullayevxakimxoja@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

Education is becoming more challenging day by day requiring being competitive and reaching the highest potential of each learner by giving attention to learner autonomy. Although former researchers gave the outline of the qualities of autonomous learners and the responsibilities of assistant teachers well, checking the correlation between easing the process of learning to achieve success of foreign language learners leads to this research. Our finding proves that an assistant teacher's role has more effect on study skills and achieving better results.

### INTRODUCTION

As the student-centered <sup>1</sup>way of teaching has risen, it is requiring adaptable management of studying, like an autonomous learner approach<sup>2</sup>. As an earlier definition, Betts and Kercher mentioned (1999, p. 14)<sup>3</sup>, “an autonomous learner, by definition, is one who solves problems through a combination of divergent and convergent thinking, and functions with minimal external guidance in selected areas of endeavor. When it comes to the process, the ALM (Autonomous Learner Model) equips students with “skills, concepts, and positive attitudes within the cognitive, emotional, social, and physical domains”, (Betts & Kercher, 1999). Practical results showed that learning autonomously and academic performance correlated successfully. It was shown in the report given by Meyer, Haywood, Sachdev, & Faraday (2008)<sup>4</sup> that one United Kingdom school student in 5 GCSE exams achieved a C grade, an even better result. Autonomous learning can be seen in the practice of language learning in learning centers (SALC) like SALC in Japan, the ASLLC in Hong Kong, and ELSAC in New Zealand. Despite the result, it has been found that ALM requires much discipline, and this is difficult for some students with minimal role of teacher. Although

<sup>1</sup> Jamol Jalolov. “Chet tilini o'qitish metodikasi”

<sup>2</sup> Saidumar Saidaliyev “Chet tili o'qitish metodikasidan ocherklar”

<sup>3</sup> Betts, G.T. & Kercher, J.K. (1999). The autonomous learner model: Optimizing ability. ALPS Publishing.

<sup>4</sup> Meyer, B., Haywood, N., Sachdev, D., & Faraday, S. (2008). What is independent learning and what are the benefits for students? (Rep.). London: Department for Children, Schools and Families Research Report 051. Retrieved March 7, 2021, from

it has been studied the purpose and qualities of autonomous learners in detail, finding further answers to the question about how to make ALM more suitable for foreign language learners. We investigated the effects of more support of assistant teachers and its correlation between the success and making ALM more suitable for groups of students. It was hypothesized that more support from assistant teachers would be associated with better results by working with the accurate instructions of assistant teacher. This paper first discusses several examples of **survey-based** questions into autonomous learner method use, then goes on to further findings on how assistant teacher support has been useful in attracting more students.

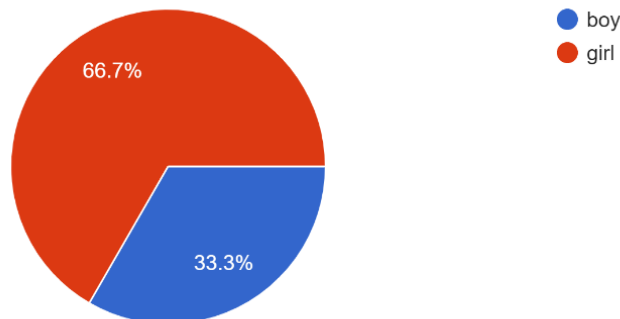
### **METHODS**

A plan to achieve the aim was prepared according to the procedure “capacity to take control of one’s own learning” (Benson, 2011, p. 58). Traditionally, being an autonomous learner has been assessed by measuring a student’s attitude, responsibility, and constructive criticism on his or her own process of learning. To test our primary hypothesis, we conducted the process with assistant teachers which would be helpful for both sides. Although main teacher still in their main position, assistant teachers are mostly in their early years in the field that they would have more time and chance to discuss when students need more instruction. Mixed method was chosen as a research design that covered statistics and own answers of students about the process. Observations were conducted at a specialized school for foreign languages in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Specialized school students were trying to overcome some difficulties in managing their time and reaching their highest potential as a foreign language learner. Especially, the students had some problems with managing their time and organizing practices for upcoming exams through study skills and extra support of someone.

The data consists of 11 different survey-based questions to show the results of the work. Mostly “yes” and “no” answers, multiple choice, and short answers are given to achieve more accurate responses. This framework was chosen because it accounts for more comfortable and covers both, the researcher’s and attendants’ active attendance. Most of the attendance were girls and they gave the answers. The attendance of boys and girls gives more accurate results covering the gender effect of the practice. The survey is done by Google form. Two sub-moves in bold are often the main focus of method sections. A random sample of students who graduated last year was asked for their attendance and they agreed. Data consists of 6 attendance answers to survey questions among boys and girls.

Figure 1

which group of students are you  
6 responses

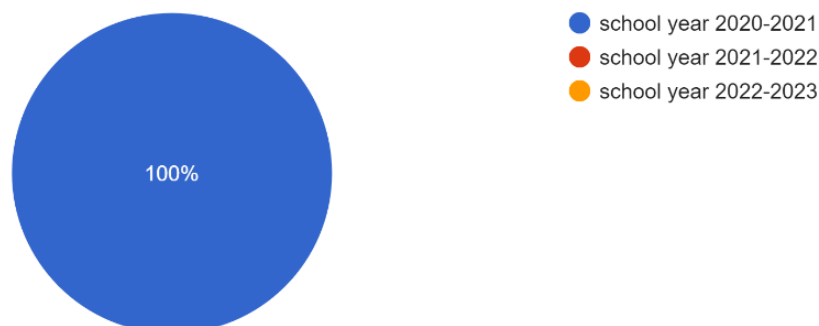


The first step in this process was to collect and order the results among autonomous learners who had chosen to study autonomously with their assistant teachers. The data management tool was Google Forms which gives the chance to record the results accurately. While surveying and organizing the research process after the process of assistant teaching one of the autonomous learners shared his better score recently which was the result of self-study. Although it is not so crucial for the research, somehow it is interesting to check whether studying autonomously helps to improve successful self-study.

As the research done after some years of students and assistant teacher the answer is more reliable and do not affect both sides, assistant teacher and students.

Figure 2.

the time you studied under the supervision of your assistant teacher  
6 responses

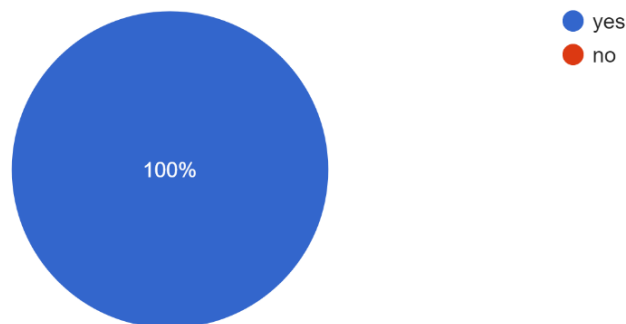


It is obvious that all respondents are in the same year. And it will lead us more accurate results.

Figure 3

Do you remember your practice with your assistant teacher well ?

6 responses



This shows that even if it has been 2 years of practice they are fully aware of the process and it affects to the reliability of the research.

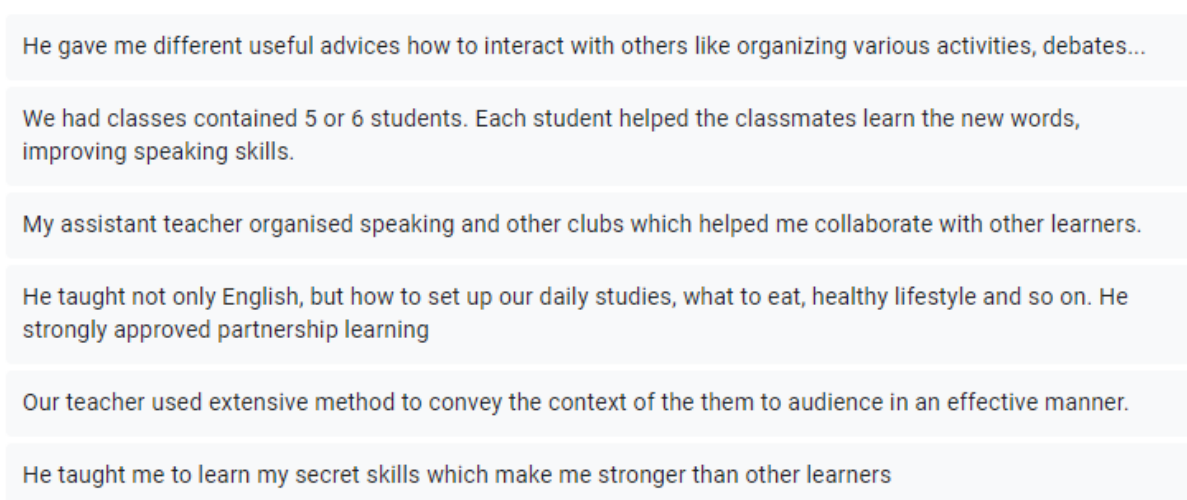
## RESULTS

The results of the questionnaire that was given to autonomous learners that all of them found their experience with assistant teacher useful but in some questions, they are different for their choices which they got more benefit.

Figure 4

How your assistant teacher helped you to collaborate with other learners?

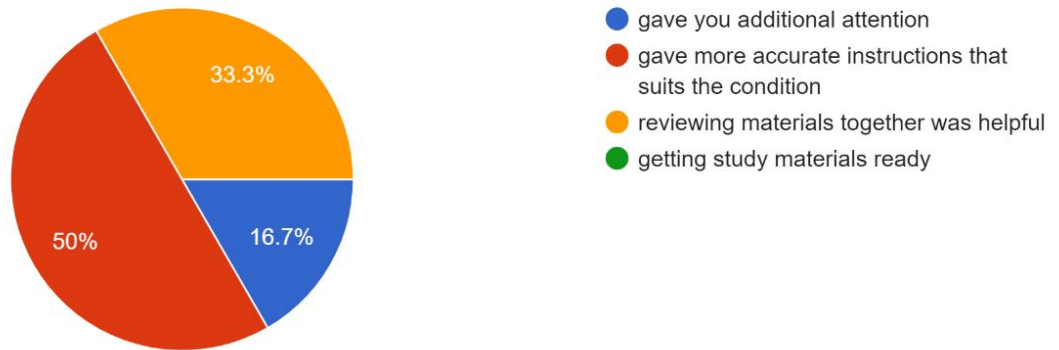
6 responses



Researcher tried to analyze how the assistant teacher helped autonomous learners to collaborate with others as it is the main part of student's development and the skill that should be developed.

Figure 5

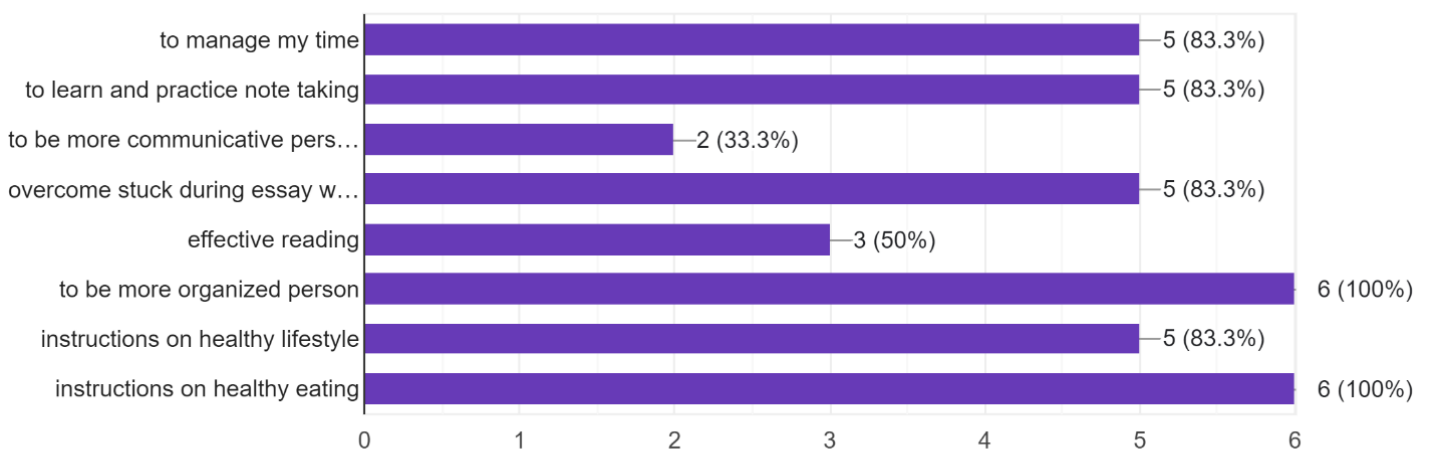
How the assistant teacher helped with your study  
6 responses



It is obvious that answers are different and assistant teacher should not underestimate students' needs.

Figure 6

how your assistant teacher's support was very helpful for you to achieve success in your studies.  
you can choose one more options  
6 responses



As it is chosen, all of the respondents found the practice helpful to be more organized person and on healthy eating instructions.

Figure 7

what is your assistant teacher's role to get ready for exams and achieve your success intensively(in a shorter time than you can)

6 responses

I need a teacher in order to get instructions that lead me to success and help me deal with exams

He helped me a lot to get rid of my anxiety before exam and taught how to be a good learner.

My assistant teacher's role is very crucial for getting ready for my exams as he will observe my practices

He gave ready to use materials on a daily basis regularly and checked our results per week. It was visible to see our results on a paper. So, we tried according to this

Our teacher plays important role in achieving my tips based on the introductions he gave us while preparing.

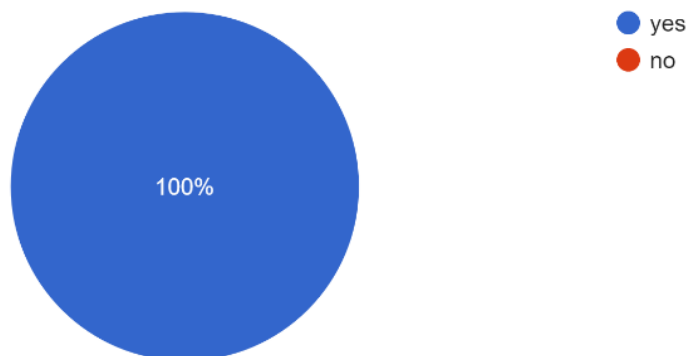
He taught me to organize everything in order

These last figures have shown how the role affected to main, academic part, of the educational process.

Figure 8

Did your assistant teacher cover your absence successfully?

6 responses

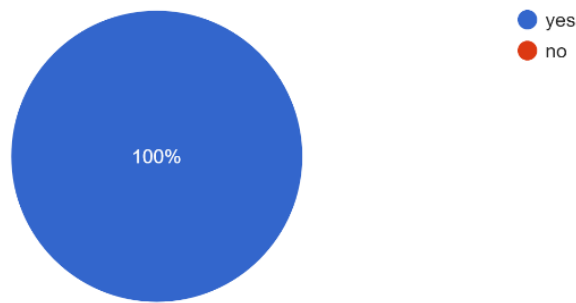


In practice it is natural to be absent because of some illnesses or other problems. And most students can never level off if they do not have exact instruction or chance to learn.

Figure 9

is the collaboration of assistant teacher with your parents on a regular basis helps you practically to get better scores in your exam

6 responses

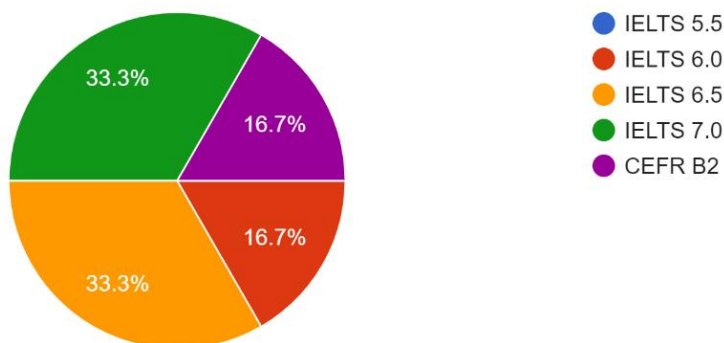


The rest of the survey was based on exceptional cases that affected the result directly. Interestingly, all respondents answered the same that assistant teachers are important while they have absences.

The last survey question is about about the practical result of teaching assistance  
Figure 10

your result of language proficiency exam after preparation with assistant teacher

6 responses

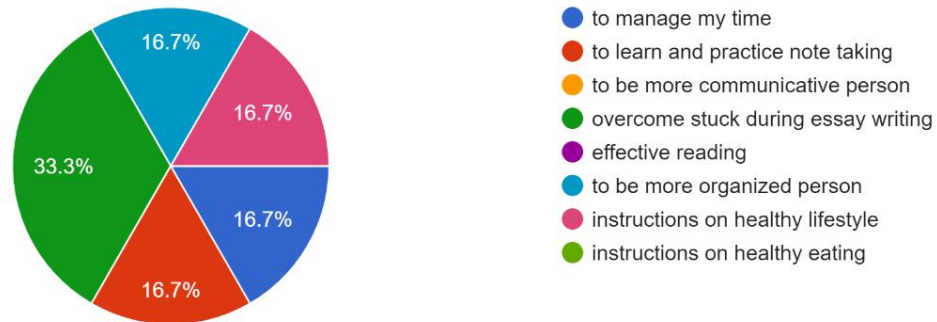


Interestingly, the attendants are still finding it beneficial

Figure 11

what skills or practices are still helpful in your current achievements

6 responses



## DISCUSSION

As it is challenging process both, teachers and students find the process overwhelming sometimes. But in most cases this is related to misconception of approaching to learning process. I mean sometimes main subject teachers need the support of assistant teacher to work with students and/or learners' abilities and choices should be taken into account to. All students found working with assistant teacher really useful . Furthermore all student get benefit but in some cases they found the help useful for different reasons. Results at the end of the work was really successful for school leavers.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, although the requirements on being autonomous learner has been observed and researcher gave their conclusions still successful result has been gained through the real experience between teachers and students. This work has shown the importance of assistant teachers to ease the process.

## REFERENCES:

1. Jamol Jalolov. "Chet tilini o'qitish metodikasi"
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