

ELCA-SUT-MoE Seminar 'Can learner independence be taught?'  
Suranaree University 27 March 1999

The following points were adapted from participants' notes:

**Teachers' common problems**

- poor student discipline
- large classes difficult to organise
- limited time for learning languages
- learners are often shy
- lack of good materials
- lack of motivated students
- difficult to hold attention of 50 students
- students don't know how to use dictionaries
- teaching is focused on university entrance exam
- some teachers are not qualified to teach language
- teachers' workload is too high

**Some suggested solutions**

- need for good quality materials
- need to teach communication, not how to pass exams
- develop students' ability to work in groups
- train group leaders
- establish an English Corner
- establish a self-access centre
- English camps
- singing contests
- library assignments
- need to give students confidence
- need provocative and stimulating material
- need for simple syllabus
- activities outside class
- vocabulary books

**Observations about this seminar**

- interesting
  - meaningful presentations
  - presenters did not have enough time
  - some presenters spoke too quickly
  - not enough documentation
  - topics need to be practical and useful
  - good location
- Notes*

- the topic vocabulary books was suitable for high schools

#### **Suggestions for the next seminar**

- longer than 1 day
- ✓• work on different skills
- ✓• divide seminar by skills: eg Reading, Writing
- ✓• need for actual practice during seminar
- need to locate training in real classrooms
- seminar program should be ongoing
- how to help beginners and post-beginners
- making materials
- some workshops should be in Thai
- how to incorporate extracurricular activities
- more fun approach
- presenters should speak more slowly
- practice teaching activities in groups

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