USING LEARNING JOURNALS TO DEVELOP LEARNER AUTONOMY

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Preliminary thought on LEARNER AUTONOMY

HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN?

"...willing, proactive and reflective involvement in planning, monitoring and evaluating one's own learning."

Little, D., Dam, L., & Legenhausen, L. (2017). Language learner autonomy: Theory, practice and research. Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters.



"Learning is always bigger than anything teachers can do."

David Little

Outline

- 1. Context I teach in
- 2. Little's three pedagogical principles
- 3. Work on and with the language learning journal, samples
- 4. Evaluation

Context

English for Sociology

Curriculum Materials Exam

Students

Theory

LITTLE'S THREE PEDAGOGICAL PRINCIPLES

D. G. Little, We're all in it together: exploring the interdependence of teacher and learner autonomy, Papers from the 7th Nordic Conference and Workshop on Autonomous Language Learning, All Together Now, University of Helsinki Language Centre, 2001, pp45 - 56

1.
Principle of
LEARNER
INVOLVEMENT

"Teachers help learners to take charge of their learning by making them full participants in the process of planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating learning."

2. Principle of LEARNER REFLECTION

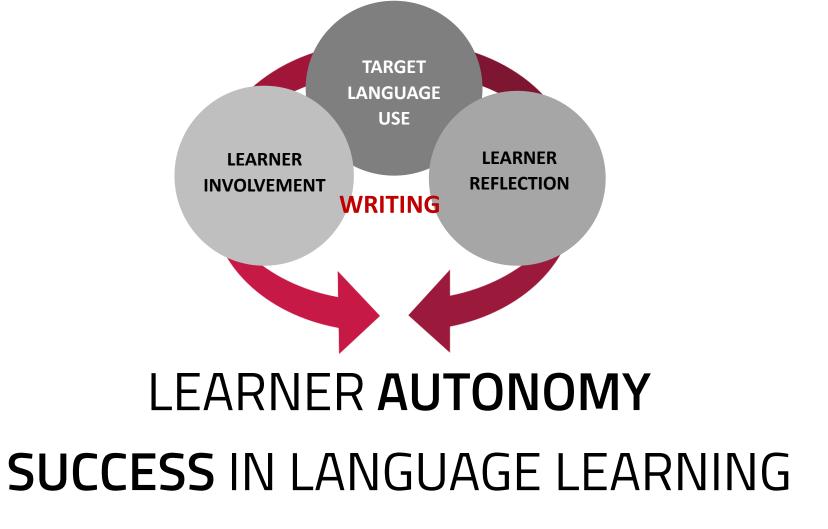
"Teachers help learners to engage reflectively with the process and content of their learning."

3. Principle of TARGET LANGUAGE USE

"Teachers help learners to use the **TL as the medium** of the **task performance**but also as metacognitive and
metalinguistic **reflection**."

"The use of **writing** from the beginning facilitates focus on linguistic form."

LITTLE'S THREE INTERRELATED PRINCIPLES



Language Centre, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

LLJ Title page



name

LLJ Content

About the LLJ

Grading rubric

Part I: Writing my portrait

- i. Proust questionnaire (adapted)
- ii. Language learning experience questionnaire
- iii. Self-assessment of English language skills (CEFR)
- iv. Self-assessment of English for sociology skills (CEFR, adapted)
- v. End-of-term/year self-assessment

Part II: Setting my learning agenda

Part III: Demonstrating the tasks completion (and reflection)

LLJ About... Grading

rubric

About the Language Learning Journal

The purpose of this Language learning journal (LU) is to encourage you to plan how to go about developing your language skills during both the winter and summer semesters, to keep track of the work you undertake and to reflect on it. Primarily, it should be useful to you – to keep you motivated to learn from meaningful tasks that you set yourself, to deal with materials that you find interesting or feel strongly about.

The LLI consists of three parts: Part I (Writing my portrait), Part II (Setting my learning agenda), and Part III (Demonstrating the tasks completion).

Each semester please set the minimum of six tasks that you will accomplish. (Some inspiration for tasks has been provided in Moodle, should you need it – see the Inspiration bookmark there for more information). You shall store all your work that demonstrates the accomplishment of tasks in this document – the LLJ.

I would like to encourage you to be ambitious in your choice of tasks. Choose authentic - British or American - sources of good quality (be it a text or a video) related to sociological issues you are curious about, phenomena you cannot but think about

again and again, and use them for developing your English reading, listening, speaking or writing skills.

Completion of the document is mandatory, and it is a student's responsibility to submit the completed tasks via Moodle **regularly** – there must be evidence that your work has been accomplished throughout the academic year, thus you are expected to upload your growing LLI at least six times during each semester.

Each time before submitting your journal to Moodle, rename the document as indicated: LU_your first name_surname_ddmm (day/month) write without diacritics.

Please note that this component carries 15 % of the end-of-term score. In terms of workload, it makes for 1 credit (out of 3), i.e. about 30 hours of work.

I am looking forward to following your initiative whatever that initiative be (transcripts of parts of lectures, translations, summaries, reflections, opinion-essays, descriptions, analyses, comparisons, scripts for your talks, voice-overs..., you name it).

BEST WISHES, Michaela Klírová

Grading rubric for LLJ

		Levels of assessment	EXCELLENT
***************************************		GOOD	5 %
Criteria CONTENT	Less than the required time. The tasks was completed. Some tasks were not related to the field of study. Tasks were completed with minimum effort (unedited/very short entries). Limited evidence of meaningful reflection on learning experiences (vague/repetitive responses).	3 %	6 tasks or more were both planned and completed with
		The min. of 6 tasks were both planned and completed. • All work presented showed that adequate effort was put in. • Considering the student's level of English, more ambitious tasks could have been presented.	substantial effort to lead to better understand a chosen point. • The whole variety of tasks was presented in very goo quality.
REFLECTION			was taken seriousiy. LLJ was uploaded in Moodle
UPLOADING			regularly throughout semester each time a new entr was added (following the plan)

maximum: 15 %

PART I

Writing my portrait

Proust questionnaire

Reveal a little about yourself by taking this adapted version of the originally 19th century Victorian parlour game. Give short answers to all 20 questions and be

dy to	o share them.
1. You	ur favourite qualities in people?
2 Ple	ase DON'T (be)
2 Va	ur chief characteristic?
4 W	here would you like to live?
4. W	our idea of happiness?
5. 10	our idea of misery?
6. Y	our idea of the
7. A	in inspiring real person?
8. A	An inspiring fiction character?
9. \	Your favourite film?
10	Your favourite min. Your favourite composer/piece of music?
-	morable encounter:
12	A memorable occupation (pastime)? 2. Your favourite occupation (pastime)?
13	3. Your interests?
	L L SV2
1	4. Why sociology: .5. What are your talents/gifts (for others)?
	Litians?
	most toleración
	17. For what fault have you most to 18. The most important lesson(s) you've learnt in life?
	18. The most important co
	19. Your favourite motto?20. What is your present state of mind?

Learning experience questionnaire

You as a learner – a language learner...

- 1. How many years have you been learning English?
- 2. Did you study in English/live abroad? If yes, where and how long?
- 3. Have you got any English-language certificates/qualifications? If yes, which one(s)?
- 4. Where do you use English (school, workplace, travelling, other)?
- 5. What is your motivation for learning English?
- 6. How do you learn English? 7. The language learning experience that you particularly value?
- 8. What about your ability to plan and organize your work and make effective use of your weekly timetable?



- 9. Teaching and learning. Please write a short reaction to the cartoon.
- 10. What languages do you know?
 - I can speak:
 - I can read in:
 - I can write in:

Self-assessment of English language skills

the Self-assessment grid and assess your current level of proficiency:

11	se the Self-assess	ment grid and	INITEDAC	Sess your current level 1		PRODUCTION Written Production	
-	RECEP	TION			oken Production	Written F	Tourself in
	Listening	Reading	Spoken Inter	myself I c	an present clear,	clear, we	ress myself in Il-structured ressing points
C1	I can understand extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly. I can understand television programme: and films without too much effort.	t can understand long and complex factual and literary texts, appreciating distinctions of style. I can understand specialised articles ar longer technical instructions, even when they do not relate to my field.	fluently and spontaneous much obviou searching for expressions. I anguage fle effectively f and profess purposes. I formulate i opinions w	ly without s I can use p xibly and or social lonal can deas and lith precision my on skilfully to	mplex subjects tegrating sub- temes, developing articular points and ounding off with an ppropriate conclusion	of view a I can wri exposition subjects subjects to report what I of the sali write d texts in appropried	te some length. te detailed ons of complex in an essay or the underlining consider to be ent issues. I can ifferent kinds of the astyle oriate to the in mind. write clear
	B2 I can understand extended speech an lectures and follow even complex lines argument provided topic is reasonably familiar. I can understand most T news and current affairs programme I can understand if majority of films is standard dialect. B1 I can understand main points of cl standard speech familiar matters regularly encour in work, school, leisure, etc. I ca understand the point of many TV programmer current affairs of personal or professional ir when the delir relatively slow	of writers adopt particular stances viewpoints. I can understand contemporary literate aron before the main adio or main adio or or topics	with degree of spontane or spontane or sponsible active policies of spossible active policies or spossi	ract with a fluency and iffy that makes the raction with seakers quite. I can take an on in familiar s, accounting my lead with most own likely to whilst travellin area where the age is spoken. enter unprepasion of the raction of t	field of interest. I cexplain a viewpoin a topical issue givi the advantages and disadvantages of various options. I can connect phin a simple way i order to describe experiences and events, my dreas hopes & ambiti I can briefly givi reasons and tor explanations for opinions and pican narrate a vel i can narrate a vel elate the plot book or film a describe my resident process.	ranger relative relat	where to the control of the control
	clear.				Level:		©Council of Euro
				evel:			

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Self-assessment of English for Sociology skills

Use the checklist below to assess your abilities at the beginning of the academic year and reflect on your growth at the end of each term (before sitting the end-of-term

and reflec	ecklist below to assess your of each term (before sitting ton your growth at the end of each term (before sitting to each term (befo	At the end
test). Plea	DESCRIPTORS	of the course/term
At the beginning 1 2 3 4 5 (low) (high)	SPECIFIC VOCABULARY Lead to make a good range of vocabulary for matters connected to my field. I can lead to be so the second to be so that the second to be sec	1 2 3 4 5 Comment shortly on your growth:
	nedia, deviance, conflict).	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	media, deviance, commendate for the academic context (reporting Lan use words and phrases appropriate for the academic context (reporting verbs, language of definitions, language of classification, cause-effect verbs, language of definitions, language of classification, cause-effect verbs, language of definitions, language of classification, cause-effect verbs, la	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	change using a good range of vocabulary. I can up the change using a good range of vocabulary. I can be considered the change using a good range of vocabulary. I can be considered to make the change of the change	1 2 3 4 5 Comment:
1 2 3 4	describing on the point of view as well as including relevant support of view as well as including relevant support of view as well as including relevant social and body language effective can take follow up questions and use my voice and body language effective can take following the point support su	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4	questions, formanises my findings. analyses and summarises my findings. DISCUSSION, DEBATE I can develop a clear, strong argument, expanding and supporting my point of view at some length with subsidiary points and relevant examples. I can of view at some length with subsidiary points and relevant examples. I can up with an animated discussion. I can express my ideas and opinion of the control of the contro	Comment:
1 2 3	give my opinions. I can listen to the opposite	ting everal Comment:
1 2	academic interes. and the main themes. REVIEWING REVIEWING A text/a script by providing helpful comments on its	1 2 3 4 -
	structure, can use corrections to advante	Comment:
	3 4 5 NOTE-TAKING I can take effective notes from texts/journal articles and lectures. COLLABORATION I can contribute to a group work and carry out my responsibilities (question to a group work and carry out my responsibilities (question). I can contribute to a group work and carry out my responsibilities (question).	uality, o work Comment:
	I can contribute to a group work and can't can't can contribute to a group work and can't	FR's Illustrative scales, ©Council of Europ

Use the checklist below to assess your abilities at the beginning of the academic year and reflect on your growth at the end of each term (before sitting the end-of-term and reflect on your growth at the level clearly by putting it in bold.

test). Plea	ecklist below to do to d	of the course/term
At the beginning	SPECIFIC VOCABULARY I can use a good range of vocabulary for matters connected to my field. I can I can use a good range of vocabulary for matters studied by sociology/social	Comment shortly on your growth:
1 2 3 4 5	interaction, life course, stratification, race, migroup interaction, life course, migroup interaction, migroup interaction, migroup interaction, migroup interaction, mi	1 2 3 4 5 Comment:
	relationship, comparison and contrast, selection hedging) hedging) CRAPH DESCRIPTION, TRENDS, STATISTICS he charts, tables and talk about trends and lation to avoid	1 2 3 4 5 Comment:
1 2 3 4 5	GRAPH DESCRIPTION, TREMDS, or a second trembs of the statistics, graphs, charts, tables and talk about trembs or a describe statistics, graphs, charts, tables and talk about trembs or describe statistics, graphs, charts, tables and talk about average of vocabulary. I can vary formulation to avoid change using a good range of vocabulary. I can vary formulation to avoid change using a good range of vocabulary, describe proportions and talk about trembs. (frequent) repetition. I can express quantity, describe proportions and talk about trembs.	



"It is not until the learners are **aware of** what is expected of them that they can be precise about their own aims and objectives within the overall curricular demands."

Leni Dam

End-of-winter-term self-assessment

To be filled in and uploaded before sitting the end-of-term test.

1. If you had to grade your work and participation in the English for Sociology I course throughout the semester, what would you award it? Please answer the question honestly. Mark the appropriate score clearly by putting it in bold and justify it.

```
Justify the score you awarded yourself:
81 % - 90 %
71 % - 80 %
 61 % - 70 %
 51 % - 60 %
```

2. Confront the Grading rubric for LU (p. 2), how would you assess your LU? Add points from relevant boxes and enter the score here:

Please comment on your experience with the Language learning journal. Feel free to comment on any aspect of this course component:

End-of-summer-term self-assessment

To be filled in and uploaded before sitting the end-of-term test.

1. If you had to grade your work and participation in the English for Sociology II course throughout the semester, what would you award it? Please answer the question honestly. Mark the appropriate score clearly by putting it in bold and justify it.

```
Justify the score you awarded yourself:
81%-90%
71%-80%
61%-70%
51%-60%
```

2. Confront the Grading rubric for LU (p. 2), how would you assess your LU? Add points from relevant boxes and enter the score here:

Please comment on your experience with the Language learning journal. Feel free to comment on any aspect of this course component:

A student's end-of-term self-assessment

End-of-summer-term self-assessment

To be filled in and uploaded before sitting the end-of-term test.

1. If you had to grade your work and participation in the English for Sociology II course throughout the semester, what would you award it? Please answer the question honestly. Mark the appropriate score clearly by putting it in bold and justify it.

Justify the score you awarded yourself: 91 +

61 % - 70 %

51 % - 60 %

50 -

I did all homework in time. I participated in 81 % - 90 % 71 % - 80 %

group projects. I prepared myself for a debate.

I attended the classes.

LLJ PART II

Setting my learning agenda

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PART II

Setting my learning agenda

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."

"Language grows organically. It doesn't follow text-book sequences. Engage with interesting content, build your vocabulary; the grammar will follow."

What would you like to learn/master this academic year in relation to English for Sociology? Think of your real needs and interests – what are they? Set your own learning agenda. Be specific and realistic. Below you will find a sample of how your learning agenda may look like. Use this table to set your own tasks. You do not have to plan all the tasks for the whole semester/academic year at once. You can do so gradually.

You can find some inspiration for what to do here:

https://dl1.cuni.cz/mod/book/view.php?id=270077&chapterid=34369

ated to socie of	Journal	Due	
(tasks/skills to be practised)	(demonstration	Date when you plan to submit your work for the teacher to monitor your work.	
Describe what exactly you will	By 'demonstration is like will store in your journal to give a proof that you have completed the work successfully.		
au/process	the words in a text		
building academic and specific vocabulary	using Lexical Tutor and common your summary of an article + vocab list (key word/prounciation/meaning/		
	delivering a 2 minute speech in		
ideas and opinions cicarry	experience related to all issue		
The second secon			
to improve my understanding speech delivered in a standard	of programme		
	Objectives (tasks/skills to be practised) Describe what exactly you will do/practise. building academic and specific vocabulary improving the ability to express my ideas and opinions clearly are to present them to others watching a documentary about topic I am interested in in order to improve my understanding speech delivered in a standard	Objectives (tasks/skills to be practised) Describe what exactly you will do/practise. By 'demonstration' is meant what you will store in your journal to give a proof that you have completed the work successfully. building academic and specific vocabulary building academic and specific vocabulary building academic and specific vocabulary building academic and specific word proving the words in a text using Lexical Tutor and using it in my 300 word summary of an article + vocab list (key word/prounuciation/meaning/sample sentence) delivering a 2 minute speech in the classroom about my experience related to an issue I study in sociology (will prepare a script for my speech) watching a documentary about a topic I am interested in in order topic I am interested in in order as comme	

Moodle (detail)

LANGUAGE LEARNING JOURNAL (LLJ)

2. * INSPIRATION: some ideas

Please remember that all tasks should be related to your major field of study

- read aloud and try delivering different texts as if presenting or lecturing
- read and write a schematic summary (practise note-taking, use, for example, Cornell template)
- read and translate a passage into Czech (or yr. mother tongue) one thing you can try: find an English text read and write an academic summary (find out about the rules first) you believe to be of an excellent content and style that you would like to learn from, and translate few lines into Czech and then back into English (without looking at the original version of course) and then compare your translated text with the original one

Writing:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. * DOCUMENT to be downloaded
- 2.* INSPIRATION: some ideas
 - 3. * RESOURCES

LLJ PART II

Setting my learning agenda

(from a student's LLJ)

	Objectives	Journal (demonstration of achievement)	Due
Assigned on	(tasks/skills to be practised)	ad an article about	4.3.
27.2.	I will practise paraphrasing.	poverty and paraphrase part of it.	
		I will read an article about social policy and summarise it.	27.3.
23.3.	I will practise summarising.		
22.4.	I will watch a documentary about equality. https://www.youtube.com/watch	part of the documentary.	24.4.
	?v=2tCcoskzqv1	I will do some tests.	27.4.
15.4.	I will learn and practise AWL.	re I will write main points about 3	9.5.
6.5. I will read an article about welfare state written by Esping-Andersen.		t tungs of Wellare	

LLJ **PART III**

Demonstrating the tasks completion

PART III

Demonstrating the tasks completion

"The joy of learning is as indispensable in study as breathing is in running."

"To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting."

Present your work here and give a clear proof that the tasks were completed — this part of the LLI should gradually grow in content and must be uploaded regularly – you can use as much space as you need. Each time you have completed your task, reflect on your experience following the two sets of questions presented below. Then, upload your language journal in Moodle (Assignments section), following your plan of deadlines. Each time before submitting your journal to Moodle, rename the document as indicated: LU_your first name_surname_ddmm (day/month) – write without diacritics.

Whatever text you produced (vocab list, summary, translation, transcript, opinion essay... – any proof that you completed the task) should be presented here (or a description of what you have done + some evidence that you have done it; recordings of your voice or videos could be sent via faculty google account).

- 1. Subject knowledge: What (all) have you learnt from doing this task (any new insights into the topic)? How does the content of the text you worked with relate to your experience (what does it say to you personally)? Thoughts, feelings, questions related to the topic?
- 2. English: How did this activity work in terms of developing English/academic skills? Are you content with the result? What new competence did you develop (if any) – what did you learn (language worth noting down)?

PART III

Demonstrating the tasks completion

(from a student's LLJ)

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TASK No 2.

Titmuss, Richard M. Welfare states: Construction, Deconstruction, Reconstruction I: "What is Social Policy?": 145-146.

Titmuss's article on Social policy (1968) discusses the meaning of social policy. Social policy is not neutral but value laden. Is loaded with moral and political values. Titmuss claims that social policy would be meaningless if it were considered as a value neutral. This policy is meaningful at a time when people believe that they can change a bad situation. The problem is that what is for someone a bad situation, it is perfectly all right for another. All people have their values and prejudices. As citizens have different rights and obligations. The author sees a special obligation of the people to express their opinions and values at a time when it is about social policy. Furthermore, he argues that man is a social being that is not governed by, for example, only economic ideas. The author also points out the integration and solidarity as part of all social systems.

The author goes on to say that there are some negative types of social policy. He gives an example of social policies in the countries of southern Africa, which are not based on social welfare or charity. Furthermore, in Brazil there are social insurance programs that redistribute resources virtually from poor to rich. As another bad example shows Hitler's "social policy" in Nazi Germany. This policy resulted in horrific acts, such as testing drugs or sterilization on disabled people, Jews and other ethnics.

Titmuss concludes that a good definition of social policy should contain 3 objectives. The first area is the benefit. In all definitions of social policy, it should be noted that the aim of social policy is to be beneficial. Policy is focused on providing social welfare for citizens. Secondly, it should include both economic and non-economic objectives (for example, minimum wages, minimum income standard, ...). The third area concerns the progressive redistribution of resources from rich to poor.

The author also states that there are 3 models of social policy. The first model is The Residual Welfare Model of Social Policy. This model is based on the assumption of the existence of natural or social channels. Those channels are the family and the market. State should interfere with function only temporarily at a time when these channels does not work properly. The second model is called The Industrial Achievement-Performance Model of Social Policy. This model includes an important part of the economy. Welfare should be based on work performance and productivity. The last one is The Institutional Redistributive Model of Social Policy. This model considers social welfare as one of the major institutions in society. It has to provide help to everyone who needs it. The model is based on the principle of social equality and on theories dealing with social and economic changes.

This task was really useful. I think that it is important to learn and practise summarising especially for sociologist and anthropologist. I also learnt some new academic words which Titmuss used in the

LLJ PART III

Demonstrating the tasks completion (reflection part)

Whatever text you produced (vocab list, summary, translation, transcript, opinion essay... – any proof that you completed the task) should be presented here (or a description of what you have done + some evidence that you have done it; recordings of your voice or videos could be sent via email).

- 1. Subject knowledge: What (all) have you learnt from doing this task (any new insights into the topic)? How does the content of the text you worked with relate to your experience (what does it say to you personally)? Thoughts, feelings, questions related to the topic?
- 2. English: How did this activity work in terms of developing English/academic skills? Are you content with the result? What new competence did you develop (if any) – what did you learn (language worth noting down)?

A student's reflection

1. Language

In this work I did a summary of a sociological text. I improved my reading skills while I was reading the text — I read it out loud so I can remember better all the facts. Then I was writing the summary of this text from my notes and from what I remembered. This work trained both my writing skills and reading skills.

A student's reflection

2. Subject

As I did summary of sociological text about women homosexuality, I think that this activity also enriched my knowledge about this topic. I learned some new fact about historical aspects of men and women sexuality and how these historical stereotypes affect the perception of women sexuality today. It also taught me something more about persisting inequality in men and women sexuality and it made me to remain interested in this topic and find out more about it.



"To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting."

Unknown author

LLJGrading rubric

		EXCELLENT		
# P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P		GOOD	5 %	
Criteria	POOR 1%	3 %	6 tasks or more were both planned and completed with substantial effort to learn and	
	Less than the required min. of 6	The min. of 6 tasks were both planned and completed. • All		
	tasks was completed: tasks were not related to the field of study. • Tasks were completed with minimum effort (unedited/very short entries).	work presented showed adequate effort was put in. • Considering the student's level and the more ambitious tasks	better understand a chosen point. • The whole variety of tasks was presented in very good	
		could have been presented.	Responses show that reflection was taken seriously.	
REFLECTION				
	experiences (vague/1cpo		LLJ was uploaded in Moodle regularly throughout the	
UPLOADING	sampleted but was not		semester each time a new entry was added (following the plan).	

Students about LLJ

At the beginning, I saw it as something anoying. But then, I was looking forward my next task. (after winter semester)

It was easier than in the first semester.

I knew what to do, where to find things.

I could work on what worked best for me.

For example, I knew where to find great sociological videos that helped with my listening the most.

(after summer semester)

Students about LLJ

It was good for me, because I could choose what I want to read, do... In my opinion, that is the best way for learn the language. I realised that it is for myself not for someone else. It helps me to more practice English.

It is a great opportunity to be creative while doing a homework. Due to that it was my favourite one and I especially enjoyed creating mind map on Coggle.

Feedback from me

Dear Bára, thank you for setting your own agenda, completing the tasks, and reflecting on what you have learnt; I enjoyed reading through the entries and I liked the variety of tasks related to your major field (to ask questions, record answers, and write a transcript of the interview is 'a daily job' of an ethnographer, so I thought this was a very good practice...); the LJ was uploaded twice in Moodle, i.e. not really regularly throughout the semester as was required.

> Best wishes, Michaela

Using language learning journals to develop language learner autonomy...

and
life long learning
habits

