**What do we mean by AVL (Autonomous Vocabulary Learning)?**

The student takes initiatives in and outside the classroom in order to enhance and expand the vocabulary without the explicit involvement of the teacher. The student is aware and in charge of the vocabulary learning process.

**What is involved in ‘learning’ a word?**

1. Learning a word requires 3 stages:
	1. Semantisation
	2. Consolidation
	3. Evaluation
2. Learning a word means to know different aspects of the word: the meaning (semantic), the use (pragmatic), spelling, pronunciation, inflections, collocations…
3. Therefore, you need the context of the word to learn the word.
4. To consolidate a new word one must memorize it (through repetition or multiple encounters).
5. Learners should also be able to ‘experiment’ with the words.
6. It is efficient to use learning strategies and vocabulary tools/activities to speed up the process.
7. The learner’s progress needs to be assessed regularly.
8. The teacher should promote learner autonomy.
9. Motivation is vital in the learning process.

**What is known about autonomous learning?**

If I want to learn on my own I need to take responsibility for the learning process. That means I need to be self-motivated in order to pursue the learning and achieve the expected results.

I learn on my own and nobody can do that for me. It is me who decides what, how, when, where, and with what material I want to learn and if I want to learn on my own or with other people.

Hunger for knowledge is the best motivation. Autonomous learning is impossible without this motivation. Each learner has his or her individual needs and preferences and it is up to me as a learner to discover how I learn best.

 

In order to ensure that my autonomous learning is successful, I must plan first and then continually reflect, evaluate, and adapt during the learning process. I need to plan and adapt it in a realistic way and I will not be distracted by my wishes or my dreams.

**What does the literature say about AVL?**

“Learner autonomy is the ability to take charge of one’s own learning” (Holec quoted in Al Shawwa). It does not mean detached, disconnected or isolated learning.

Our research shows that literature often focuses on vocabulary teaching and rarely on vocabulary learning. It is widely agreed upon, however, that repetition of vocabulary (in a meaningful context) is crucial. Methods of repetition may vary according to the learner’s means, needs and preferred learning style. Initial motivation, self-regulation and post-learning evaluation are important factors for successful autonomous vocabulary learning. Learners should therefore be provided with cognitive, meta-cognitive and social strategies on how to learn vocabulary autonomously.

Below you find a link-list in alphabetical order with articles about AVL:

* **Al Shawwa, Wisam Khalid: Enhancing Learner Autonomy in Vocabulary Learning: How and Why?**

Link to full text:

<http://www.qou.edu/english/conferences/firstNationalConference/pdfFiles/wisamAlShawwa.pdf>

* **Benson, Paul: Autonomy in Language Learning**Link to full text:

<http://www.learnerautonomy.org/Resources_files/Antonomous_learning%20By%20Benson.pdf>

* **Folse, Keith: Myths about Teaching and Learning Second Language Vocabulary: What Recent Research Says.**

Link to full text:

<https://journals.lib.byu.edu/spc/index.php/TESL/article/view/32544/30704>

* **Mondria, Jan-Arjen: Myths about vocabulary acquisition**

Link to full text:

<http://babylonia.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/2007-2/mondria.pdf>

* **Nation, Paul: Teaching Vocabulary**

Link to full text:

<http://www.asian-efl-journal.com/sept_05_pn.pdf>

* **Tseng, Wen-Ta & Schmitt, Norbert: Toward a Model of Motivated Vocabulary Learning: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach**

Link to full text:

<http://www.norbertschmitt.co.uk/uploads/tseng-w-t-and-schmitt-n-%282008%29-towards-a-self-regulating-model-of-vocabulary-learning-a-structural-equation-modeling-approach-language-learning-58-2-357-400.pdf>

* **Trong Tuan, Luu: An Empirical Research on Self-learning Vocabulary**

Link to full text:

<http://ojs.academypublisher.com/index.php/tpls/article/viewFile/011216881695/3955>

* **Waring, Rob & Nation, Paul: Second language reading and incidental vocabulary learning**

Link to full text:

<http://www.robwaring.org/papers/various/waring_120304.pdf>

* **Zhong, Hua: Learning a word: From receptive to productive vocabulary use**

Link to full text:

<http://iafor.org/offprints/acll-split-offprints/ACLL2011_0102.pdf>