Building Learners’ Character through Strategies-Based Instruction
(Focusing on the autonomous character)

Abstract

by
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In the last twenty years, the issue of learning strategies has become the focus of the language teaching and learning. Learning strategy becomes an essential factor in the success of language learning. It is the first step for language learners to enhance their own learning because the learning strategies are tools for active, self-directed involvement, and essential to develop communicative competence (Oxford, 1990). This idea is also in line with Brown’s statement (2001:60) that the successful mastery of the second language will depend on the one’s investment of time, efforts, and attention to the language through employing his/her own learning strategies in learning the language. The idea issued by those experts indicates the importance of developing students’ learning strategies to create autonomous learners. The Indonesian government also considers it as one of the important aspects of learners character building that is mandiri or autonomous through language teaching.

The language teacher can help and guide the students to be autonomous learners through Strategies-Based Instruction- which is commonly called ‘strategy instruction’. In the classroom, it is aimed at helping students know what, how, and why to learn, and facilitating them to learn (Yin Ze-Sheng, 2008). Explicitly, the teacher teaches the students language learning strategies. This paper will discuss what and how to introduce language learning strategies in the classroom instruction. The discussion will also cover the aspects to consider by the teacher in teaching learning strategies, such as age, gender, language proficiency level, and culture. At the end of the paper, the writer will also show some implementation models for language learning strategy instruction.

Key words: building character, Strategies-Based Instruction, autonomous

Biographical Data
Dwiyani Pratiwi is the lecturer at English Language Education Department, Yogyakarta State University. She completed her postgraduate study in Language Teaching, Applied Linguistics Study Program, State University of Yogyakarta. Currently, she is putting her concern on doing research and writing articles on language learning strategies- what, why, and how to build strategic language learners.