Reflection as a Tool of Supporting Conscious Learning

Maia Boltovsky, Estonian National Defence College Airi Niilo, University of Tartu



Professional learning takes conscious and systematic reflection (Karm, 2007).

Lifelong learning and just-in-time learning require informed self-direction (Biggs, 2007).



Aim – to research student perception concerning the reflection tasks done in the language learning classroom.

Research question – How do students perceive the reflection tasks from the point of view of supporting their studies?



Methodology

- Students –
- Servicemen/-women and civilians
- English language courses –
- Levels A2 up to B1+
- From 5 weeks up to 15 weeks
- January 2013 April 2014

- Questionnaire on 10 reflection tasks
- Group discussion
- Content analysis of reflection tasks



Data analysis

- Independent Sample T-Test
- Content analysis on students' reflections
- Descriptive statistics (averages)



Results

Sample 1 (yellow), sample 2 (gray) - averages





Lessons learned

- Systematic reflection and monitoring own activities should not be neglected, hurried or taken lightly.
- Teach self-evaluation and self-monitoring skills, both in the interest of the ongoing course as well as lifelong learning.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

