Note taking in the L2 classroom: The present and the possibilities

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What does it take to do this?
This = Notetaking

Note taking is the practice of writing down pieces of information in a systematic way.
What’s the system?
What’s your system?
Are they the same?
6 Steps

Note taking
Courses

Academic note taking

Lecture listening

Listening and note taking
Textbooks
Lecture Ready
Real Talk
Academic listening and note taking
Common Practice?

Write what you hear!

Note key words!
Take notes!
Teaching / Learning or Practicing?
Teaching / Learning First
Practice Later
Research Says?

L2 note takers recorded fewer main headings, subheadings, and examples than did L1 users.

(Clerehan, 1995)
Research Says?

L2 note takers recorded only about 30% of propositions in lectures.

(Kiewra, et al., 1995)
Research Says?

Many L2 learners do not get explicit note taking instruction.

(Crawford, 2015)
Textbooks
Lecture Ready
Real Talk
Academic listening and note taking
Authentic materials

MOOCs

Videos

Podcasts
6 Steps
Note taking
1. Listen and understand
2. Decide what
3. Decide when
4. Decide how
5. Write
6. Organize and review
Two studies

1. Japan, university, A2-B1, 87 students, complete

2. Sweden, upper secondary (English 5 and 7), B1-C1?, 187 students, 4 teachers, ongoing
The First Study

Does explicit scaffolded note taking instruction using the outline format affect:

1. quantity of information units?
2. format of notes?
Information Unit (IU): the smallest detached item of information that can, on its own, be judged as true or false
Pre-test

6 weeks of instruction

Post-test

Namibia

Semi-authentic lectures on content already in syllabus

Mozambique
Semi-authentic lectures

Education: differences between German and American university systems

Leadership: bio of John McCain
Appendix
Partial notes from Week 2: ‘Diversity: multicultural Australia’

I Multiculturalism in Australia

- numbers
- history of immigration
- ________
- languages.

II Australia’s make up today

- today ________ million people
- million were born ________
- from different countries:
  - Europe: UK, Italy, ________, the Netherlands
  - UK has ________ million people in Australia
  - Asia: ________, Vietnam, ________, Philippines
  - ________: ________, Egypt, ________, Zimbabwe.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average IUs</th>
<th>Completeness</th>
<th>Used outline format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre test</strong></td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>8% (7/87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post test</strong></td>
<td>20.5*</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>69% (60/87)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About South West Africa:

Located in South East

Same size as Turkey.

North half South half

Mountains ↔ low lands.

Lakes →-? (Northern part)

Geography:

People:

22 million 97% Bantu

Other: white, African.

Portuguese.

Others use more local language.

English OK

AIDS: 15-49, danger.
Country, Africa, economy, 1990

- Many black, some mixed people
- Many, 71% white

Day, 2.10, most black

South, East Africa:
- Many mountain
- Many mountains, near river
- Some white, river

People:
- 2.2 million
- 96% black
- 4% white

- Official language
- English
- HIV is problem
- 5.5 children
- Population growth
I NASA

- ______
- ______
- ______ troubles.

II ______

- ______
- Space race:
  - between _______ and _______
  - _______
  - _______ satellite in space
  - by _______
  - _______
  - _______.
A pedagogic cycle for ELT note-taking

ELT Journal, 70(3): 275-286
2. Sweden, upper secondary (English 5 and 7), B1-C1?, 187 students, 4 teachers, ongoing
The Second Study

1. What is the current state of note-taking instruction?
2. How does an explicit pedagogic intervention affect students’ views and abilities regarding note taking?
What does the national syllabus say about NT?

“Different ways of commenting on and taking notes when listening to and reading communications from different sources.”
What does the national syllabus say about NT?

“Strategies to take in and structure information…” 5
“Understanding of spoken and written English…” 5
“…different language strategies in different contexts” 5
“…how words and phrases create structure…” 5
“Strategies to search for relevant information in larger amounts of texts…” 6
Timeline

• Early September: Pre-survey, Pre-notetaking samples, Pre-test
• Mid-September: Begin intervention (8 weeks of note taking activities)
• Mid-October: Midway-notetaking samples, Midway-test
• Early December: Post-survey, Post-notetaking samples, Post-test
Comments from teachers

Write what you hear!

Note key words!
Current state

Note taking in English is very or somewhat easy: 92/187

Note taking in English when listening to a TED Talk is very or somewhat easy: 80/187
Is note taking important?
Is note taking taught?

Did you learn note taking skills in your English classes in 7-9? 161 said NO

Have you learned note taking skills in your English classes at USS? 152 said NO
Views and habits

I rely on handouts from the teacher and I don’t take any notes: 62 said “Never”

At home, I review my notes: 146 said “Never” (64) or “Sometimes” (82)

Being able to take notes is an important skill to have: 151 “Strongly” or “Somewhat agree”
Views and habits

I need more training in note taking strategies for taking notes in English: 128 “Strongly” or “Somewhat agree”

My English teacher can help me take better notes: 121 “Strongly” or “Somewhat agree”

My English teacher helps me take better notes: 61 “Strongly” or “Somewhat agree”

60 learners?
### Why do you take notes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher expects me to.</td>
<td>40.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It helps me get better grades.</td>
<td>44.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It helps me remember content.</td>
<td>82.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My classmates take notes, so I do too.</td>
<td>17.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are helpful with tests or homework.</td>
<td>74.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It keeps me from getting bored.</td>
<td>31.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s a natural part of school life.</td>
<td>34.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>Responses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Respondents: 187**
What affects your ability to take “good” notes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the speaker’s accent</td>
<td>30.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the rate or speed of the speech</td>
<td>72.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the difficulty of the topic</td>
<td>48.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>my interest in the topic</td>
<td>55.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the time of day</td>
<td>40.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the volume of the speech</td>
<td>29.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the purpose for taking notes</td>
<td>32.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>my note taking skills</td>
<td>44.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nothing</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>5.88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Respondents: 187
Pre Note taking samples & Test

Individual differences but same objective (hopefully?)
Taking notes   Code: StinaAV
Blindfish adapt in caves through evolution.
Different species.
One from Indiana.
Different species develop differently.
Can look at genes behind vision.
Big sickness from Madagascar.
Dangerous species in Madagascar.
Different from fish in Australia.
Fish didn't move, only the different continents.
New species in Mexico, doesn't appear to be like any other fish in Mexico.
He wants to discover and save fish, cure blindness.
Like these to learn more about the geology and biology of this planet.
Studying of fishes
Cavefishes = biologi - fysik
- Blindar
- Förlorar ögonen
- Unikt DNA
- South Amblan = found
- Vi har g. gener = samma gener
- Kan berätta om historia =
- Blev sjuka av fängsten
- Madagaskar, 100,000,000 years
- DNA = exakt datum
- Vet inte familj, Cuba / Florida, Mexico
Toons Wed. 10/10:

discuss new areas, cases,
cave fish = biology, land, evolution,
tall eyes, always came lose
their eyes. Still biology stay
new species south, Indiana, Ohio
river split, landless, how we experiment
genes, deep Madagascar, big swim
create big day to hill or, 6000 km
separated for 100 million years.
Continents moved gym, Mexico, destroyed
dam, blindness, toll as much about
biology
Dangerous species
- new
- destroyed by dams

Fish
- YOLO
- Using caves to find spices
  - can tell history
  - eyes disappear in darkness when you

Ambloxus
- Genes
  - some maintain
Karin5h

- Cate fishes
- Geology
- Ambledrophiles
- Kentucky
- Blind fish in cave
- Genes
- Sink holes
- 100 M years
- How we see
Project code: Karin710

Fish & History

- The study of fishes
  - "eye" - discovering
  - New species of cave fishes
    - biology
    - geology

When a fish species adapt to a caved env. → been egg-sperm.

New spec. from Indiana: Started emerging a hundred million years ago.
- The genes behind our vision:
  - Not from Madamaka ("rick")
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Considerations

listening comprehension affect

notes are meaningful to the taker

language choice: L1 or L2?

pen and paper? recording?

multi-modal impacts?
Future?

More studies

Other formats/systems

Other steps

In meetings

Reading
Other projects:

Pragmatic development

Reading fluency, corpus
Determining English teacher needs

Survey & Interviews

AR informed by needs in the field
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