Journal of English language Teaching and Learning University of Tabriz Volume 12, Issue 26, (Fall and Winter 2020) Pages 217-237

# A Mixed-Method Approach on the Role of Self-Constructs in Self-Regulation\*

#### Naser Rashidi\*\*

Professor of TEFL, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran. **Misagh Haji Mohammadi (Corresponding author)** \*\*\* PhD Candidate of TEFL, Shahrekord University, Iran.

#### Abstract

The current mixed-method research aimed to investigate the effects of selfconstructs on self-regulation. To this end, a number of 127 Iranian EFL learners were chosen randomly as the sample of the study. To collect data, semi-structured interviews were designed. Also, correlation analysis and regression analysis were run on the data. The results of interview data suggested that motivated learners who reported self-regulation tended to display positive visualization of their ideal L2 self and self-efficacy beliefs. Besides, the result of correlation analysis indicated that ideal L2 self had stronger association with self-efficacy beliefs than with self-regulation, suggesting that it is necessary to hold positive beliefs towards language learning in order to visualize oneself as a proficient and successful language user. Of the two self-constructs, self-regulation turned out to be most strongly associated with self-efficacy followed by ideal L2 self indicating that what characterizes self-regulated learners is that their levels of self-efficacy is higher compared to those who are not. Finally, the result of regression analysis revealed that self-efficacy and, to the lesser extent, ideal L2 self were found as direct predictors of self-regulation. It seems unlikely to be a motivated learner without the actual beliefs in ssss s aii lity aaa a ttrogg cctull iztt ioo of "" s imgga aa a uuccssfful lggggggs ss er.

**Key words**: self-constructs, ideal L2 self, self-efficacy beliefs, self-regulation.

\*Received: 2020/06/05 Accepted: 2020/08/08

\*\*Email: naser.rashidi@shirazu.ac.ir

\*\*\*Email: hajimohammadi88@gmail.com

# Introduction

Zoltán Dörnyei initiated a new path of research into L2 motivation. His L2 motivational self-system is the association of two future selfguides (L2 selves) pertained to "imagined experience" and another component originated in "actual experience" (Dörnyei, 2014, p. 9). This tripartite construct consisted of ideal L2 self, ought-to L2 self, and L2 learning experience. The central component of L2 motivational self sy,,,, al L2 se,,, ss deeeed as "hle L2 ppeccccaacess ff eeess aaaal ee"""öö nnyei 999999. 2... eee eecddd ceeeeee eeegggtt -to L2 self, eeeeeee "eee atteeeeec hhat eee beiieees nne uugtt to possess" in order to meet the expectations of parents, friends, or significant others. Finally the last component, L2 learning experience, is defined as "tttaaddd execiii ee ttt ssss sseeece oo eee mmaaaa aa aaaggggg environment and experienceg ccch as eee mmact ff the teacher, curriculum, peer groups, and eee ee exeeeence ss sss cess.

This new path in L2 motivation instigated a plethora of research to confirm the motivational properties of the L2 motivational self system (Csizér & Kormos, 2008, 2009; Csizér & Luk'acs, 2010; Dörnyei & Ushioda, 2009; Kim, 2009; Kim & Kim, 2014; Kormos, Kiddle, & Csizér, 2011; Magid, 2012, Papi, 2010; Rahimi Domakani, Jaafar Pour, & Haji Mohammadi, 2016; Taguchi, Magid, & Papi 2009). In

particular, the ideal L2 self, has been viewed as a strong predictor of a number of different criterion measures related to language learning. It was also known as a strong factor which can determine and exert motivated behavior in L2 learners (Dörnyei & Chan, 2013). However, there has been relatively little investigation into how the other self-construct i.e., self-efficacy beliefs influence self-regulatory behaviors of Iranian EFL learners. Neither has been enough examination of the extent to which these constructs are associated with the ideal L2 self.

# **Objective of the study**

The present study follows three main objectives. Firstly, it sought to uncover the influence of self-constructs i.e., ideal L2 self and selfefficacy beliefs on self-regulation among Iranian MA students of TEFL. Secondly, it attempted to examine the interaction of the two selfconstructs and self-regulation. Thirdly, it sought to uncover the predictor/s of self-regulation. Accordingly the following research questions were developed:

- 1. What is the influence of ideal L2 self and self-efficacy beliefs on self-regulation of Iranian EFL learners?
- 2. Is there any significant relationship between the ideal L2 self, self-efficacy beliefs, and self-regulation of Iranian EFL learners?
- 3. Which self-efficacy or ideal L2 self is the better predictor of self-regulation?

# **Literature Review**

The present research attempts to investigate three issues: ideal L2 self, self-efficacy, and self-regulation. Our review of literature is organized in two sections: a theoretical overview of the concepts and a brief explanation of the previous studies.

ا جامع علوم الر

## **Ideal L2 Self**

According to Dörnyei (2005), ideal L2 self represents an ideal image of the kind of L2 user one desires to be in the future, ssss sseeee"" "" " aaæee''s eerrred L2 ss er atteeeeee that is absolutely essential in creating a broader self-imagery ff eeess successful future. Ideal L2 self subsumes aaame" attitudes towards L2 community groups and Studies have been done on the influential impact of ideal L2 self in motivating L2 learners. Dörnyei and Chan (2013) asserted that learners with more vivid and sustained idealized L2 self-image are undoubtedly more motivated to be engaged in their language studying goals than those learners who have not hold a strong visualization of their ideal L2 self. Also, a number of researches (Al-Shehri, (2009); Csizér and Kormos, (2008, 2009); Kim (2009); Kormos, Kiddle, and Csizér (2011); Ryan (2009); Taguchi et al., (2009) emphasized the positive influence of the ideal L2 self on language learning motivation, the powerful factor that can efficiently elicit self-regulatory behavior in EFL learners. Furthermore, Taguchi et al. (2009) concluded motivation and the effort that learners invest in learning a language as the strong predictors of Ill 1 lanresse eeœiized L2 self-image.

Also, the possible association between the ideal L2 self and selfregulation has been a noticeable issue for SLA researchers. Borkowski and Thorpe (1941) asserted that possible selves are pertained to selfregulatory behavior. They explained that future self-guides subsumes goals, the factor that plays an essential role in SRL, that is, when a learner develops a future goal to reach positive possible selves or to avoid negative possible selves," the effort that the learner invested in achieving that goal will be considered as the first step toward SRL process (cited in Kim and Kim, 2014, p. 78). Furthermore, Chan (2014) stated that possible selves can exert efficacious self-regulatory behavior in learners since these self-guides "increase the end accessibility and eeaaaall tty of eehaaaaaæee""""""" ... 55-26). Some empirical studies have been done on the association between idealized future self and self-regulation. Csizér and Kormos (2014) confirmed powerful future self-guides as precondition of SRL strategies. Also, Kim and Kim (2014) showed significant relationships between ideal L2 self and three phases of self-regulatory behavior among Korean junior high school students, asserting this association to be due to the relation of these two concepts with the notions of the self. Also, they found desired L2 self-image as the strongest predictor of self-regulatory behavior. Similar findings found by Rahimi Domakani et al. (2016) that confirmed the same association among Iranian EFL learners.

# Self-Efficacy

Another self-construct, which is frequently used in educational psychology, is self-efficacy. Bandura (1997) defines self-efficacy as iiii '''''' perception about their abilities to perform a task successfully. Self-efficacy has been viewed as an influential factor in L2 achievement (Bandura, 1977, 1997; Schunk, 2005, 2008). Research findings show that leaners with higher levels of self-efficacy act better and participate more eagerly in a task (Alexander & Winne, 2012). Also, these learners are more prone in order to implement self-regulatory strategies (i.e. cognitive and metacognitive strategies) (Schunk, 1985; Zimmerman & Martinez-Pons, 1990). Moreover, learners with higher self-efficacy beliefs has higher motivation in learning, which in turn affect their effort and persistence at a task and eventually promote their learning (Alexander & Winne, 2012).

The substantial role that self-efficacy plays language learning domain has been investigated empirically. For example, Hsieh and Kang (2010) reported a positive association between self-efficacy and language learning proficiency' Also, the role of self-efficacy in shaping aaæee''' eeeal L2 eeff had eeen iiii cea.... rr exall e, ee ii and

Takeuchi (2013), by performing structural equation modeling on Japanese first-year university students, they confirmed the influential impact of self-efficacy on pacccc?""" 'aiinn ff a eeeeeeæ add more vivid ideal L2 self. Also, Iwaniec (2014) found noticeable relationship between self-efficacy and ideal L2 self.

The high impact of self-efficacy in regulating learners had been the focus of attention in recent studies. Gaskill and Hoy (2002) explained that the association between self-efficacy and self-regulation is due to the nature of these two constructs since self-efficacy and self-regulation both require the presence of specific cognitive capacities such as goal setting, monitoring, reflecting, and making judgments. Accordingly, the relationship between these two concepts have been investigated so far. Erlich (2011) indicated a strong association between self-regulation and self-efficacy of L2 learners in academic planning. Furthermore, Wang, Schwab, Fenn, and Chang (2013) indicated a strong association between self-efficacy, English language test scores, and self-regulatory strategies. Feeeeœeee e, teey reeeadddtttt ttt eemaee """ 1 ff self-efficacy were higher than that of the male students. On the table below, the characteristics of self-constructs (ideal L2 self and selfefficacy beliefs) are discussed.

		Ideal L2 Self	Self-Efficacy Beliefs			
Time Future-oriented			X	Future-oriented		
orientation		(Dörnyei, 2005)		(Bong	&	Shaalvik,
				1993)		
Temporal	18	Malleable	Cladest	Malleal	ole	
Stability	0.	(Markus &	Nurius,	(Bong	&	Shaalvik,
		1986)	0241-11	1993)		
Judgment		General	00	Specific	c 🗌	
specificity			4	(Bong	&	Shaalvik,
(within	the			1993)		
domain)						

#### Table 1

Characteristics	of	Self-	Const	tructs
-----------------	----	-------	-------	--------

Key	Aspirations	Mastery experience	
antecedents	(Ruvolo & Markus,		
	1992)	Verbal experience	
	Real-life experiences of	Vicarious experience	
	L2 community members		
	(Dörnyei, 2005)	Affective and	
	Personal goals	psychological states	
	(Dörnyei, 2005)	(Bandura, 1997)	

Adopted from Iwaniec (2014, p. 4).

### Self-Regulation

Regarding its Latin root, self-regulation involves both self-management and self-adjustment in the caee tttt "something goes off track" or needs some improvement (Oxford, 2013, p. 12). SRL or self-regulation subsumes processes in which learners activate and sustain their cognitions, affects, and behaviors oriented toward fulfillment of their goals (Zimmerman & Schunk, 2011). According to Zimmerman and Schunk (2011, p. 1), self-regulated learners are supposed to be "proactive in order to set goals and engage in a self-regulatory cycle", the essential part of which is motivational beliefs. Also, individuals are wwwed as "seff-organizing, proactive, self-reflecting, and selfregulating rather than reactive organisms" shaped by environmental forces or inner impulses (Bandura, 1977, p. 194). What characterizes self-regulated learners is that these learners are high-capacity students who show higher performance (Montalvo & Toress, 2004).

Some empirical studies have been done on the significant role that self-constructs play in self-regulation. For example, Iwaniec (2014), in a mixed-method study, examined the association between three concepts of self-constructs (self-efficacy beliefs, ideal L2 self, and English self-concept) and self-regulation among Polish students. She found that the ideal L2 self was strongly associated with self-efficacy beliefs than with English self-concept. However, by considering selfregulation, researchers found strong positive correlations this construct and the ideal L2 self followed by self-efficacy beliefs. Accordingly, the current research aims to give us a more vivid picture of the issues under investigation.

#### Method

# **Participants**

Seven EFL learners (four females and three males) aged 21-25, characterized by their teachers as motivated learners, comprised the sample of the study. They were more successful language learners in that they had higher levels of motivation and self-efficacy. Besides, they had higher goals to study a second language and their grade was very good or excellent. The reason to choose only motivated learners for the interviews was that these learners were better to identify the rationale under their motivation to study an L2. Besides, they were better at expressing themselves and were able to talk at length about their language experience. In addition, 122 Iranian EFL students (MA students of TEFL) were chosen randomly from several universities in the southeast of Iran. The mean age of the participants were 23.

## Instrumentations

#### Interview

For the main purpose of the study, semi-structured interviews were designed. Topics for the interviews were based on the results of the quantitative study and asked in open format in order that the interviewees would be able to freely express their thoughts and opinions. The interview questions elicited data about a number of topics confirmed to be relevant in the L2 motivation literature; namely, L2 learning goals, aaæeerss beliefs about their ability to study English, effort invested in learning the L2 and, attitudes and experience toward learning a language and self-regulatory strategies that students implement in their process of learning English.

# Motivation questionnaire

The quantitative survey was piloted among 60 EFL students and after assuring the reliability and validity of the questions (Table 2), the survey assessed learners on a six-point Likert-scale with values ranging from *strongly disagree* to *strongly agree*. The internal consistency of the survey was adequate ( $\alpha = \dots$  examining the internal

consistency of scores by the three subscales, we noticed that all subscales had acceptable reliability. Accordingly, the following three constructs comprised the survey:

- Ideal L2 self (6 items): s'''''' iiii nn ff hheee ssss as proficient users of language in the future. For instance, *I imagine myself speaking English as a native speaker*. Items for this scale were taken from Taguchi et al. (2009).
- Self-efficacy beliefs (10 items): individualse eeiieft tt t tt ll llll ll ln order to accomplish a task, or the ability to speak English successfully in the future. For instance, *I am confident that I will do well in my English course*. The items targeted reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension skills. Some items were adopted from MSLQ (Pintrich et al., 1991).
- Self-regulation (13 items): According to Zimmerman (1989), the extent to which students are metacognitively, motivationally, and behaviorally active in their language learning process. Self-regulation entails taking the responsibility for your own learning and at the same time developing the most effective learning strategies (Iwaniec, 2014). For example, *I have my own techniques that help me focus on studying English.* The items for this scale were adopted from Barnard et al. (2009).

**Questionnaire data.** The factor analysis revealed that the items measured three separate concepts. Regarding self-efficacy and self-regulation, some items were dropped in order to accurately measure the intended variables. As Table 2 displays, the final scale consisted of six items regarding the ideal L2 self, eight items (self-efficacy beliefs), and eleven items (self-regulation). The reliability of the scales were acceptable with all values above 0.8.

# Table 2

T I

The Composition, Reliability, and the Mean Score of the Final Scale						
Variable	No.	Reliabili	Eigenval	% of	Mea	Standar
S	of	ty	ue	variance	n	d
	final					

226 Journal of English Language Teaching and Learning. No. 26/ Fall and Winter 2020

	item			explaine	Scor	Deviatio
	S			d	e	n
Ideal L2	6	.82	2.52	42.20	4.88	.90
self						
Self-	8	.86	4.66	55.45	5.05	1.09
efficacy						
Self-	11	.91	3.25	34.68	4.54	.78
regulatio						
n						

Another statistical figure in Table 2 which is worth noticing is the mean score. As seen in Table 2, students scored highest on self-efficacy followed by idealized L2 self-image and self-regulation. Bandura (1997) defines self-effaaxy as iiii """" "liefs about their capabilities in order to complete a given task successfully. Regarding language learning, self-efficacy ss www.at as eeaeee''' pecceiii nn ff their capabilities in order to complete target tasks related to language learning. As mentioned previously, self-efficacy beliefs is an influential factor in L2 learning and achievement (Schunk, 2005; 2008). So, it is worthy to notice that the highest score of the self-efficacy implied that participants possessed high level of confidence to accomplish a task, which is a beneficial factor in their L2 process. Overall, the scores on the above three variables suggest that the participants tended to have positive view of their language learning skills, their self-image of the proficient L2 user, and self-regulatory strategies.

# Procedures

All the interviews were done in second language. Explaining that the privacy of data will be kept and is just for the purpose of study, the researcher asked the participants to freely express their ideas at length. Subsequently, nn hle basss ff ttt eeeeess ' retttt ,, the motivational questionnaire was prepared. First, the questionnaire was administered to 60 students of TEFL. Considering the factor and reliability analysis of the questionnaire data, we eliminated and reworded the items that were found to be problematic. Finally, the last version of the

questionnaire was administered to 122 students of TEFL during the time of the class. Being present at the time of administration the researcher explained that the aaanre''s participation was highly intentional and that the whole data was strictly confidential and anonymous. This was done in order to ensure that the students felt free to answer the items truthfully.

# **Data Analysis**

First, semi-structured interviews were transcribed and coded aaaaa axally, fmmmccch a aange ff eey rrrss cotttttt t d ooaaæee''' self-constructs and self-regulation emerged. That is, in the first step, utterances concerning similar topics were grouped together. The themes that emerged in this way were then defined into categories and subcategories and ascribed an appropriate code. Subsequently, all utterances were coded appropriately bearing in mind the definitions of the categories. The process was repeated until all definitions were precise and all utterances were coded accurately.

In addition, factor analysis was carried out on the quantitative data to ensure that the items measured the intended variables. Furthermore, to identify the relationships among variables, a correlation coefficient was run. Finally, regression analysis was conducted to find out how well sell-constructs (ideal L2 self and self-efficacy) predict selfregulation as well as how much was the amount of their contribution.

## **Results and Discussion**

## **Interview data**

Regarding the analysis of the interviews data, it seemed to provide support for the following claims. The participants were strong at their visualization of their ideal L2 self. All seven students reported that their idealized L2 self-image was a strong motivator for their L2 learning. They mentioned their personal interest and enjoyment were the key components that made them go forward in L2 learning. For example, Saii aac::::::: : rrrtt and rrr etttt , I iii kk eee mttt mmaaaaaa sssue in aaannng nn giihh ss my nnn ttt eeett nn aaannng rrr eign nngaaee"""" ,..., eeeeee "I'm ttt eeedddddd eannng English since I really enjoy it, I mean, it is really fun for me to learn a foreign language." Besides the intrinsic value of learning, it seemed that for the other students (five), ideal L2 self was a vision of what they will be when eeey aceeeee hherr nnīgaage leannīg gaa... ss Sara eeeee "Ftttt tt t ll, I started learning English since I was interested in it, but nowadays I study Engiiii i d dddo oocceeeee e y ooceeiii aaal gaa"""

When the students were asked about their belief in language abilities, "Il ff mmmeeooeed tttt eeey aave nnnnn eeiief.. ss Sara ...... ۴I ttttt tt ee any teeeeennggggage aaagggggl aaanntt ealll y." The other students went into more details when they talked about their language alll tt.... eeee c:::::: : I ddddddnnng nn giihheasy. I haee no trouble at learning grammar; however, I find learning abstruse vocabulary a bit difficult. Regarding other langaaee all tt,,,, ,,, ..... : I nnntt have any trouble at reading. When reading at the highest speed, I can go well. Immaooogddd at eeeagggg I it easy for me to express my iiiii iii nniiiiiiii iiiii wwweee,, rrrrr sssssss aad ffffeeett wwwsw regarding learning grammar and vocabularies. As Samira and Mona both noted that they find learning vocabularies easy; however, the most difficult part of language learning was grammar for them. Samira mentioned that she had difficulty in learning tenses as well as different aasss ff eeeec.. See tta:::: : I dddddddes ccch as eeesett eeeeec,, eeeeett eeffect ciiii sssss s ttt ffff...... eeally cattt tttt ggghhhh eeeee en """"" In atttt "", "" eœeeeœe "eee tttt ffffttttt tt tt nn learning grammar is passive sentences. Sometimes, I really get ceeeeeeee

In eeeer oo ccccellllll 1 ieeeeœee """" "" iiee iii gggggatttt their language abilities, it is essential to know how their self-efficacy beliefs are constructed on which interview data provided us with useful insights. When the participants were asked about the sources of belief in their language abilities, the interviewees named a number of processors of their self-efficacy beliefs such as grades and examinations, comparison with the peers, improving their language learning and emotional cues such as their interest and enjoyment.

It is worth noticing that in all cases participants mentioned more than one antecedent of their self-efficacy beliefs. For instance, Sara reported: Comparing myself with other students, I find that the level of my self-efficacy is inherently high. It must be because of my huge inner interest in language learning. At the second place, I always try my best at the examinations to get an A since it gives me a sense of appraisal, not only from my teacher, parents, and my friends but also from myself. I mean, getting an A in the examinations gives me a desirable sense that I had been great.

oooo oooo eeeeee "I am eeally ttt eeetted nnaaangggnngii... I eee it as a new experience that I have never had. I think that not only being interested in learning an L2 but also showing myself how well I am at tt eeee e eeee e eeee aee eeee ee

Finally, the results of the interviews revealed that Iranian EFL learners were highly self-regulative. All of the students mentioned that they were investing their time and effort in order to highly implement self-regulatory strategies during their studying time. For instance, Sara stated that she always sets standards for her studying method. She exeeeeeœe"eetting standards previously delineate my studying path and ott ff my ddddyng ii''''' See aoootttt ddddd eeee s ee get eee tttt that for her, note-taking is the most efficient way to establish her dddnnig. "uuuuuu,, tt aa y kkle ee a ttt ff ii,,, I eoooy tt oo much since it makes the connection between the learned materials stronger in my ii """ Feeeeœeee e, rrrrr sssssss sxeeeeeæ taat eeetttt effeeeet technique to evaluate their learning was communication with other peers or the teacher. One of them was Mona rrr r reeeeæe "tt iiIII I confront any trouble in my learning, I ask help from a knowledgeable source like professors or even my friends. It gives me a sense of motivation and self-ciiii eecce." Ia atttt SSSS Saa .....

I always feel easy to ask help from my friends when I find understanding the learned material difficult. I like to share my ideas with other students since it not only makes me solve my problems but also it makes our relationship stronger.

# **Correlational Analysis**

The result of correlation analysis revealed a number of positive relationships between variables ranged from medium to large. As shown in Table 3, the ideal L2 self had stronger association with self-efficacy than with self-regulation. This close proximity could be explained in this way that both concepts (ideal L2 self and self-efficacy beliefs) pertain to the future (Bong & Skaalvik, 2003). When self-efficacy was taken into account, it correlated strongly with self-regulation followed by the ideal L2 self, which supports Pintrich and De Groot (1990) findings. Similar results were reported by Erlich (2011), Lavasani, Mirhosseini, Hejazi, and Davoodi (2011), and Wang, et al. (2013) who observed strong association between self-efficacy and self-regulation.

# Table 3

Correlational Analysis of the Self-Constructs and Self-Regulation

	• • •	0	C
Variable	Self-regulation	Ideal L2 self	Self-efficacy
Self-regulation			
Ideal L2 self	0.499**	1	0.507**
	0.000	07	0.000
Self-efficacy	0.672**	0.507**	
-	0.000	0.000	

Of the two self-constructs, self-regulation turned out to have the strongest association with self-efficacy followed by ideal L2 self. In the case of the association between ideal L2 self and self-regulation, the result is similar to that of Csizér and Dörnyei (2014) who found significant relationships between ideal L2 self and two aspects of self-regulation (commitment control and satiation control) in three students' populations of secondary school learners, colleges and universities students, and adult learners. However, the finding is contrary to that of Iwaniec (2014) who found that self-regulation is most closely related to the ideal L2 self than to self-efficacy among Polish students of English. eee ee caaaaæy retttt s tt t ee cxxxxxff Iaan crrrr r tttt tt L aaæeess' level of self-efficacy is higher than their visualization of a desired future self-image. It seemed that they had clearer and stronger vision of their

self-efficacy beliefs than their desired self-image, which is in line with Rahimi Domakani et.al. (2016). Another reason that self-regulation had stronger association with self-efficacy than with ideal L2 self in this context is in line with Zimmerman (1986) who confirmed higher levels of self-efficacy as the key characteristics of learners who are self-regulated.

## **Regression Analysis**

To find out the extent that ideal L2 self and self-efficacy contribute to self-regulation, regression analysis was run. As the result of correlation analysis, regression analysis revealed that both ideal L2 self and self-efficacy beliefs significantly and directly contribute to self-regulation. However, the degree of the contribution of self-efficacy was found to be more noticeable than that of the ideal L2 self (Table 4).

#### Table 4

Regression Analysis of Self-Regulation

Model		Unstand	lardized	Standardized		
		Coefficient		Coefficient	Т	Sig.
-		В	Std.	Beta		
			Error	117		
1		1.399	0.338	50	4.137	0.000
(Const	ant)			30		
Ideal	L2	0.203	0.073	0.212	2.770	0.007
self				The second		
Self-		0.448	0.061	0.565	7.371	0.000
efficac	y		/ Y			

The stronger contribution of self-efficacy to self-regulation confirms the influential impact of self-efficacy in L2 learning. The result is in line with Pintrich and De Groot (1990) who confirmed self-efficacy as the strongest predictor of learning which can exert self-regulation in learners.

## **Conclusion and Implication**

In this mixed-method study, we attempted to investigate the role of ideal L2 self and self-efficacy beliefs in self-regulation. First, the results

of interviews suggest that motivated learners who reported selfregulation were more willing to display positive visualization of their idealized L2 self-image and self-efficacy beliefs. Besides, the results of correlational analysis indicated that ideal L2 self had stronger association with self-efficacy beliefs than with self-regulation, suggesting that it is necessary to hold positive beliefs towards language learning in order to visualize oneself as a proficient and successful language user (Iwaniec, 2014). A strong positive association was also found between self-efficacy and self-regulation, which confirms Zmmrr nnn ss 999999 nngggg. ss eee eettt ff crrr elllllll laalysss, the regression analysis revealed this proposition as self-efficacy and, to a lesser extent, ideal L2 self were observed as direct predictors of selfregulation in population of Iranian EFL learners, suggesting that it appears unlikely for the learners to be motivated without the actual eeiiess nneee" alll tty add a nnnnn acumiizaiinn ff eeess mmage as a successful language user.

This research shed light to the fact that self-regulated learning emerges when learners have high level of self-efficacy and strong visualization of a proficient and successful language users. Accordingly, the message for L2 instructors can be echoed in that they should try to offer an environment for language learning that not only stimulate positive self-efficacy beliefs but also enhance the opportunity to visualize stronger and more vivid ideal L2 self. In this case, teachers need to adjust their classroom activities to the abilities of learners to create successful language learning experiences (Iwaniec, 2014). Also, ctttt ccciiee feeaaa cs ss saaaaaaaaaaaaaaaac cccnnnig nn eee eeeaiiee aeeecss Ill y ii gtt affect ddde'''' '' ff-beiie'''''' (Iwacccc, ..... ,, .... Furthermore, the role of families in educational system cannot be ignored. As a role model for children at home, parents can have a major role in nurturing self-efficacy as well as positive visualization of the ideal L2 self in the early stages of language learning. By being aware ee eeœe eeeeeœ eeee eeœ cat ttttt ttt nme''' acii eee.....

#### References

- Al-Shehri, A. S. (2009). Motivation and vision: The relation between the ideal L2 self, imagination, and visual style. In Z. Dörnyei & E. Ushioda (Eds.), *Motivation, language identity and the L2 self* (pp. 164-171). Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.
- Alexander, P. A., & Winne, P. H. (2012). *Handbook of educational psychology*. Routledge.
- Bandura, A. (1977). Self-efficacy: Toward a unifying theory of behavioral change. *Psychological Review*, 84(2), 191-215.
- Bandura, A. (1997). *Self-efficacy: The exercise of control.* New York: Freeman.
- Barnard, L., Lan, W. Y., To, Y. M., Paton, V. O., & Lai, S. L. (2009). Measuring self-regulation in online and blended learning environments. *The Internet and Higher Education*, 12, 1-6.
- Bong, M. & Skaalvik, E. M. (2003). Academic self-concept and self-efficacy: How different are they really? *Educational Psychology Review*, 15(1), 1-40.
- Chan, H. Y. L. (2014). *Possible selves, visions, and dynamic systems theory in second language learning and teaching.* Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Nottingham, London.
- Crooks, G., & Schmidt, R. W. (1991). Motivation: Reopening the research agenda. *Language Learning*, *41*, 469-512.
- Csizér, K., & Kormos, J. (2008). Age-related differences in the motivation of learning English as a foreign language: Attitudes, selves, and motivated learning behavior. *Language Learning*, 58(2), 327-355.
- Csizér, K., & Kormos, J. (2009). Learning experiences, selves and motivated learning behavior: A comparative analysis of structural models for Hungarian secondary and university learners of English. In Z. Dörnyei & E. Ushioda (Eds.), *Motivation, language identity and the L2 self* (pp. 98-119). Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.
- Csizér, K., & Kormos, J. (2014). The ideal L2 self, self-regulatory strategies and autonomous learning: A comparison of different groups of English language learners. In K. Csizér & M. Magid (Eds.), *The impact of selfconcept on language learning* (pp. 73-87). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.

- Csizér, K., & Luk´acs, G. (2010). The comparative analysis of motivation, attitudes, and selves: The case of English and German in Hungary. *System*, *38*, 1-13.
- Dörnyei, Z. (1994). Motivation and motivating in the foreign language classroom. *The Modern Language Journal*, 78(3), 273-284.
- Dörnyei, Z. (2005). *The psychology of the language learner: Individual differences in second language acquisition*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Dörnyei, Z. (2009). The L2 motivational self system. In Z. Dörnyei & E. Ushioda (Eds.), *Motivation, language identity, and the L2 self* (pp. 9-42). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Dörnyei, Z. (2014). Future self-guides and vision. In K. Csizér & M. Magid (Eds.), *The impact of self-concept on language learning* (pp. 7-18). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Dörnyei, Z., & Ushioda, E. (2009). Motivation, language identities and the L2 self: A theoretical overview. In Z. Dörnyei & E. Ushioda (Eds.), *Motivation, language identities and the L2 self* (pp. 1-8). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Dörnyei, Z., & Chan, L. (2013). Motivation and vision: An analysis of future L2 self-images, sensory styles, and imagery capacity across two target languages. *Language Learning*, 63(3), 437-462.
- Erlich R. J. (2011). Developing self-efficacy and self-regulated learning in academic planning: applying social cognitive theory in academic advising to assess student learning outcomes. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Oregon State University, United States.
- Gardner, R. C., & Lambert, W. E. (1959). Motivational variables in second language acquisition. *Canadian Journal of Psychology*, 13, 26-72.
- Gaskill, P. J., & Hoy, A. W. (2002). Self-efficacy and self-regulated learning: The dynamic duo in school performance. In J. Arenson, (Ed.), *Improving* academic achievement: Impact of psychological factors on education (pp. 185-208). New York: Department of applied psychology.
- Irie, K., & Brewster, D. R. (2013). One curriculum, three stories: Ideal L2 self and L2 self-discrepancy profiles. In M. T. Apple, D. D. Silva, & T. Fellner

(Eds.), *Language learning motivation in Japan* (pp. 71-110). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.

- Iwaniec, J. (2014). Self-constructs in language learning: What is their role in self-regulation? In K. Csizér & M. Magid (Eds.), *The impact of selfconcept on language learning* (pp. 189-206). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Kim, T. Y. (2009). The dynamics of L2 self and L2 learning motivation: A qualitative case study of Korean ESL students. *English Teaching*, 64(3), 49-70.
- Kim, T. Y., & Kim Y. K. ())))) ) FFL steeett "22 mtt ivtt iaaal eelf-system and self-regulation; focusing on elementary and junior high school students in Korea. In K. Csizér & M. Magid (Eds.), *The impact of self-concept on language learning* (pp. 87-108). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Kormos, J., Kiddle, T., & Csizér, K. (2011). System of goals, attitudes, and self-related beliefs in second-language-learning motivation. *Applied Linguistics*, 32(5), 495-516.
- Lavasani, M. GH., Mirhosseini, F. S., Hejazi, E., & Davoodi, M. (2011). The effect of self-regulation learning strategies training on the academic motivation and self-efficacy. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 29, 627-632.
- Markus, H. R., & Nurius, P. (1986). Possible Selves. American Psychologist, 41(9), 954-969.
- Magid, M. (2011). A validation and application of the L2 motivational selfsystem among Chinese learners of English. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, London, University of Nottingham.
- Magid, M. (2012). The L2 motivational self system from a Chinese perspective: A mixed method study. *Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 6, 69-90.
- Oxford, R. L. (2013). *Teaching and researching: Language learning strategies*. NY: Routledge.
- Oxford, R. L., & Shearin, J. (1994). Language learning motivation: Expanding the theoretical framework. *The Modern Language Journal*, 78(1), 12-28.

- Pintrich, P. R., & De Groot, E. (1990). Motivational and self-regulated learning of classroom academic performance. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 82(1), 33-40.
- Pintrich, P. R., Smith, D. A., García, T., & McKeachie, W. J. (1991). A manual for the use of the motivated strategies for learning questionnaire (MSLQ). Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, School of Education.
- Papi, M. (2010). The L2 motivational self system, L2 anxiety, and motivated behavior: A structural equation modeling approach. *System, 38,* 467-479.
- Rahimi Domakani, M., Jaafarpour, A. A., & Haji Mohammadi, M. (2016). The interplay of Iranian EFL learners' L2 selves and their use of selfregulated learning strategies. Unpublished MA dissertation. Shahrekord University, Iran.
- Ryan, S. (2009). Self and identity in L2 motivation in Japan: The ideal L2 self and Japanese learners of English. In Z. Dörnyei & E. Ushioda, (Eds.), *Motivation, language identity, and the L2 self* (pp. 120-144). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Schunk, D. H. (1985). Self-efficacy and classroom learning. *Psychology in the Schools*, 22(2), 208-223.
- Schunk, D. H. (2005). Self-regulated learning: The educational legacy of Paul R. Pintrich. *Educational Psychologist*, 40(2), 85-94.
- Schunk, D. H. (2008). Metacognition, self-regulation, and self-regulated learning: Research recommendations. *Educational Psychology Review*, 20, 463-467.
- Taguchi, T., Magid, M., & Papi, M. (2009). The L2 motivational self system among Japanese, Chinese, and Iranian learners of English: A comparative study. In Z. Dörnyei & E. Ushioda (Eds.), *Motivation, language identity* and the L2 self (pp. 66-97). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Torrano Montalvo, F., & González Torres, M. (2004). Self-regulated learning: Current and future directions. *Electronic Journal of Research in Educational Psychology*, 2(1), 1-34.
- Ueki, M., & Takeuchi, O. (2013). Exploring the Concept of the Ideal L2 Self in an Asian EFL Context: The Case of Japanese University Students. *The Journal of Asia TEFL*, *10*(1), 25-45.

- Ueki, M., & Takeuchi, O. (2013). Forming a clearer image of the ideal L2 self: The L2 motivational self system and learner autonomy in a Japanese EFL context. *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching*, 7(3), 238-252.
- Wang, Ch., Schwab G., Fenn, P., & Chang, M. (2013). Self-Efficacy and selfregulated learning strategies for English language learners: comparison between Chinese and German college students. *Journal of Educational and Developmental Psychology* 3(1), 173-191.
- Zimmerman, B. J. (1986). Development of self-regulated learning: Which are the key subprocesses? *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, 11, 307-313.
- Zimmerman, B. J. (1989). A social cognitive view of self-regulated academic learning. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *81*, 329-339.
- Zimmerman, B. J., & Martinez-Pons, M. (1990). Student differences in selfregulated learning: Relating grade, sex, and giftedness to self-efficacy and strategy use. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 82(1), 51-59.
- Zimmerman, B. J., & Schunk, D. H. (2011). Handbook of self-regulation of learning and performance. NY: Routledge.

