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**・Poster title: Maximum 12 words**

Challenges in Business English Proficiency Improvement for Working Sellf-Study Learners

**・Poster summary: Maximum 75 words**

As international business becomes inevitable, Japanese professionals face challenges due to limited foreign language skills. However, they are left to self-learn these skills, because of reduced funding for overall employee empowerment since 2009. I present some of the challenges and struggles faced by working adults who self-learn business English skills, drawing on data from my case study, the Institute for International Business Communication, and the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

**・Extended abstract: Maximum 200 words**

This presentation aims to highlight the challenges faced by company workers in Japan who self-study English. As international business becomes inevitable, Japanese professionals encounter difficulties due to limited foreign language skills. Many are left to self-learn these skills, because of reduced funding for overall employee empowerment since 2009 (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare [MHLW], 2022).

Due to the popularity of the TOEIC exam, my case study participant, a full-time employee and beginning learner, is self-studying business English to achieve high scores on the TOEIC. Because TOEIC exam results are often used as a standard for promotion, personnel selection for overseas assignments, and recruiting (the Institute for International Business Communication [IIBC], 2019). However, improving L2 skills without formal instruction can be challenging for beginning learners like him because they are uncertain about what and how to study.

 Drawing on data from MHLW (2022) and IIBC (2019), I present the struggles of a self-directed learner based on a year's worth of interview data. In doing so, this presentation attempts to identify difficulties in self-learning business English.

**Presenter biography**

Kazumi Takagi is currently an associate professor at Kinjogakuin University and a Ph.D. student at Kansai University. Her interests include L2 writing development and the second language development process of working adults. In her free time, she enjoys visiting historical places.