My Second Language Acquisition Experience

**Luna** (Hyun-Mi Jeong)

**TESOL 33th (Weekday Course)**

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**Teacher : Valerie Hamer**

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**Title : My Second Language Acquisition Experience**

**Introduction**

I describe how to improve second language effectively base on my experience in overseas.

**Body**

1. Traditional classrooms vs. Modern classrooms

* Weaknesses of traditional classrooms

1. Natural order hypothesis

* Learn second language also same way as first language

1. Adults are autonomous and self – directed.

* I improve listening of English by myself.

1. Effective teaching

* Communicates clearly with respect

**Conclusion**

I think the first purpose of language is communication so listening and speaking is the most important.

“How’s your flight?”

It was my first question when I arrive in Sydney. It was very simple sentence but I couldn’t answer because I don’t understand what he said.

I studied English over than 10 years but that was useless, I realized that as soon as I arrived in overseas. So I decided to improve of listening and speaking.

There are four opinions about how to improve second language effectively base on my experience in Sydney.

I studied English over than 10 years in Korea that is traditional classrooms so teaching style is as an explainer focus on the grammar and reading. Thus students are just listening and take a note, inactive in the class. Therefore most of students cannot listen clearly and speak fluently even though they studied long time very hard, including me. Since the airport happening I thought ‘This is a big weakness of traditional classrooms in real life.’ For this reason, I took a language school classes immediately by the help of my sister. (Because I couldn’t communicate with a receptionist.) It was totally different comparing before classes. Modern classrooms are more activity and more opportunity to speak. Teachers give lots of times not only speak but also listen. After these classes I can go another school just by myself without somebody’s help.

We are all biologically programmed to be able to learn language. For example, mother tongue. We are naturally learned without books and any lessons.

Learn second language also same way as first language. This is a ‘Natural Order Hypothesis’[[1]](#footnote-2), indeed, I agree that.

I studied English during middle school to university so according to this theory I have to communicate well by second language. However I am not. What is mean? Mean is I ignored my natural abilities about language so I just try to memorize spelling and grammar. If I concentrated on listening and speaking I could be enhance in English faster.

I realized importance of listening and speaking so I decided to make foreigner friends. I invited a few friends of my language school but still I couldn’t communicate well because I could not understand properly. Speaking was better than listening so I only said something, no exactly replies. As a result they are talked about me “Luna is stubborn.” After I heard this, I put more effort into listening. For instance watching movies without subtitles, writing the lyrics when I listen the song and watching news on the television. Eventually I could understand much more and I could make friends with understanding my real personality, not a misunderstanding about me.

This experience explains how I improve listening autonomous and self – directed.

Finally second language acquisition experience is teacher’s help.

I met Sally who was my tecsol course teacher. She was always communicates clearly even if I speak wrong way and never move on despite we need long time to communicate. She has a respect of students so wait for me until I can speak exactly. When I have a presentation in the class she write down every my mistake in speech and corrected them. After her I know that effective teaching students with special needs require patience and understanding. Also communicates clearly with respect is important.

So far, I described my four experiences of acquisition second language.

To sum up, the first purpose of language is communication so listening and speaking is the most important. To do that, learners are autonomous and self – directed because language is naturally acquired. And the other thing is ask teacher to teach effectively with clear communication and respect in modern classroom.

1. Stephen Krashen [↑](#footnote-ref-2)