**My Second Language Acquisition**

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Important Things Teachers Should Know

**1. *Introduction***

Studying English in Korea is more important now compared with 1970’s situation. Nowadays, many of the kids start to learn English around 5years old, before enrolling in elementary schools. In my case, I started to learn English in middle school. This means that I was 13 years old at that time. I didn’t even know how to read and write alphabet. I had 3 teachers during my middle school years. They were teaching me different style but their **teaching style was the traditional method. Explainer spending most of the class time explaining the meanings.** In this essay, I would like to introduce my English teachers during middle school years and also give my **.**second language acquisition experience.

**2. *Body***

1. **Grammar in a Traditional Classroom**

I started to study English in middle school as an essential curriculum but it was not fun and interesting so I didn’t enjoy it much. My first English teacher was a Korean and his major was in other subject, Not English. He was trying to explain grammar and usage of vocabulary for most of the class hours. Sometimes we were practicing where to put tongue so we could improve pronunciations of words. First time the teacher read a word and we were repeating after him two or three times. But he wasn’t a native English speaker, so it’s hard to say that he had fluent English. This meant teacher-centered, note taking, and practicing word pronunciation. Frankly I didn’t like his teaching style at all. Nevertheless **I think for beginners, grammar translation method explaining the meaning as an explainer is an efficient way to make students understand easily through teacher’s detailed explanation.**

1. **Effective Teaching**

As I mentioned above, my English acquisition experience in my middle school years was bold and not fun which meant passive. I loved to study social science class on the other hand, because the teacher listened to us well and emphasized students’ problems as a mean of teaching and mentoring. She always was open to students who were speaking in class. Every student liked her and asked lots of questions in the class. Those kinds of qualities made us to get involved in class more. She also was humorous and friendly to students. **She prepared many role playing games and tools to make student pay attention to her class. She always made an effort to find the appropriate methods to teach students. It was really effective for us students to concentrate on her class**. If my first English teacher has the same teaching technique, I think I could’ve done better in my English class.

1. **Learning style**

In Korea most people, not just students during school years, have been spending lots of money and time to study English for numerous reasons. However even though they put in lots of effort into studying for a long time like me, the results is not what they expect after all the effort they put in. I think that there are many reasons why they don’t improve as expected. The most important thing is that the learner doesn’t focus on the primary goal: “Why do I study the second language for?” Unfortunately through my experience, I had studied to get credit just getting remembered it. We know that there are **many different appropriate learning styles to study English such as discussing with others, learning by cooperating, teaching and mentoring others, etc.** Most students are not autonomous, but if teachers try to foster their students with authenticity, then students will directed themselves and will be much more energetic on trying to understanding their Second language.

**3. *Conclusion***

Frankly, my second language acquisition experience was not successful. There are many reasons that I still can’t figure out. Nevertheless, in my conclusion, I think that it doesn’t matter if a teacher is an explainer, an involver, or even an enabler to various students because teachers have their own teaching styles and students also have their own unique studying styles. **The most important thing is that teachers have to be the person who helps and leads students in a right and suitable way by empathizing the student’s problem**.