Second Language Acquisition Assignment

-Felix, 65

To describe a second language acquisition that I have experienced, I want to tell my personal language learning experiences. I can sort out it into two groups in my life.

First of all, I learned English while I was in middle school and high school as one of school curriculums. Like my peers, I started learning English, entering middle school.

These days, in Korea, there is an increasing demand of English educating, so many of children have been being taught English since they were very young age. But at the time for me to grow up, commonly we used to get an English class as soon as we entered middle school.

At that time I had few chances to meet foreigners and talk with them. So, English class was the only source which I could contact with. However, most of my English teachers couldn’t speak English, even though they were English teacher. It was impossible for them to teach students with using it.

And it was the time when the atmosphere of classroom was just a traditional classroom. So the teachers kept on teaching and explaining instruction following textbook . In my opinion, it was so inefficient for students to learn English as one of languages. They could recognize it as one of subjects and integral parts to enroll higher level’s school.

In case of acquiring a language, it is not so successful method. Aw we learn foreign language, teacher who is type of the explainer is good at teaching in structure of the language but the learner tends to get a wrong awareness about a language. For me, I might be build an English structure but, I rarely have a chance to get a speaking lesson. It would be a wrong teaching method for language learner. Language would be taught as a language not a subject.

Second stage of my language learning step is the time when I graduated from university. Because I got a job as an English teacher in private school, I had to study and prepare my instruction. Therefore I had to arrange my knowledge in order to teach my students effectively and rightly.

I think that it would be looked like a goal-oriented learner for me to study English by myself. Since I had a goal to prepare my class and I really hoped to be a right teacher. About for one year, I had kept on studying grammar, memorizing new vocabulary, and reading as many script as possible so as to be used to it.

After that time, I felt that I needed to study speaking. But in nature, it was almost impossible to acquire speaking skills. So I made a plan to go abroad to have experiences. After considering many conditions, I went to Philippines. I had two conditions. One was I wouldn’t stay in language school as others did. The other was I wouldn’t associate with other Koreans not to speak Korean. So I chose the place where is in deep rural areas no Korean.

It was the most suitable place even though at first I had a hard time speaking English and adjusting the environment. But before long, I got used to it. I started to try to imitate other’s speaking and after that I made it my own expressions little by little.

I think it was really autonomous and self-directed learners attitude. While I had a tutorial class in there, my tutor sometimes talked many things. It seemed that he was making a speech. Whenever he did that, I stop him and suggested a discussion on one topic to him. It seems that I was a relevancy-oriented learner.

I don’t want to say it was a success or it was a failure. I’d like to say that when I was in school years, it might be inefficient to learn in traditional classroom but, through that time, I could set fundamental things of my language learning. And by staying in foreign country I could really recognize English as a language. It was a new angle about an English.

Now I am going to teach my students, mixing with my experiences and knowledge to teach them effectively and I’ll do my best to make a global leader.