**Essay #1**

**My Second Language Acquisition Experience**

***Language is a process of free creation - Noam Chomsky***

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**Ⅰ. Introduction**

I have been learning English since middle school. My English learning experience was interesting and I really felt as if I had been wearing a brand-new suit. But as time went by, English became uncomfortable and it was getting difficult for me. As a result, I was losing my interest. Fortunately, when I was in the last grade of my high school I met someone who was a very enthusiastic English teacher. His name was Jung-yeoul, Lee. The amusing thing is that “Jung-yeoul and Yeoul-jung” means enthusiasm.

**Ⅱ. Body**

In South Korea as everyone knows, “the last grade of high school” is really tough and it’s a hard time. Students are always tired and feel bored in class. I had the same time. We were almost at the end of teenage years, but not complete adults. We didn’t have many life experiences and were not autonomous and self-directed learners. We just had the same goal and that was to get good scores in the Korean SAT. It is really important, and it is a really boring goal. We had had such boring classes before then.

Imagine! The class of 3rd grade of high school. All students were sitting and sleeping and never doing the activities. The teacher talked and the sounds of turning pages. It’s really common traditional classrooms. We did not know if it was good or not. We took in the fact as a matter of course because we always had the same type of classes. Jung-yeoul’s class was little different. He tried to wake us up from boring classes.

The first time everyone thought he was weird and strange because we had to study hard as much as we could. Of course he did his job. He taught English and made us study, but he also made us cheerful and got us interested. I cannot be sure but I think he was between an involver and enabler. The sure thing is that he was not an explainer. He always prepared something good. For example, he got word game activities, some part of movies and songs and introduced good English programs. Especially I liked the song part. I ‘m not good at singing, but I love songs. When I was a child, my dream was to be a singer. He tried to teach us songs as many as he could. I still remember some songs which I was taught at that time. Through the songs and movies, I could learn some English expressions, the target culture and their thoughts. It was just more than studying English that I could learn from the books. I became interested again and admired foreign life. He broadened my view of the world and that was quite enough to reignite my interest.

I think “the best effective teaching” is not always the same. It is depends on who they are and where it is. There are lots of ways and situations. However this much is true. “Enthusiasm and knowledge about the subject matter” is the most important things that I want to say. If they (teachers) have these two things, it is likely that the most other teaching attributes (patience, well organizing, listening to their students…etc.) will follow. My teacher had these two things, he could make the class cheerful, interested and we could enjoy.

My teacher tried to expose English naturally. I think that this is important. It’s related in “Noam Chomsky’s Theory”. Of course there are some theories that are related. However his theory is based on LDA (Language Acquisition Device) that can be learned like L1(mother tongue). This theory is important for ESL education. We learn our L1 naturally. It is close to acquisition than studying. So, if we follow the same procedure of our mother tongue (Listening – Speaking – Reading – Writing) we can learn a second language more easily. This is pretty contrast with other theories that talk about CDA (Cognitive Acquisition Device). But after almost 12~14 year-old, acquisition ability is getting decrease. So after that, we need learning (studying) ability. Therefore we might not say which theory is right or not. I just want to combine all theories if I need.

**Ⅲ. Conclusion**

Without question, I want to teach English in the future more naturally. It could be “Studying”, but I will try to make “Acquisition”. I could be an involver and sometimes could be an enabler like my teacher was. Learning language is not studying. I think it is life and culture. I will get my students to have many various experience and drill like their daily life so that students can use English in their daily life.