Lim Joo Lee

TESOL

**<My best and unforgettable memories of Second Language Acquisition>**

*“To have another language is to possess a second soul.” – Charlemagne*

My first experience of second language learning happens in Geneva, Switzerland where I have spent my half year of elementary school life. But guess what? My Second Language that I learned was not English but French. My parents sent me to a French school. I was just a little 7-years-old girl who could not speak any word of French. I attended to a school named Montchoisy from September 1990 till September 1991. My very first foreign teacher’s name was Mme. Arbaletrier. She was a little strict but warm-hearted and she had two big dogs. She also lived in the same apartment as I do, which made me to get closer with her. She made my second language learning meaningful, easy and could absorb the complete different language faster.

The first characteristic of adult learners is relevancy-oriented. In other words, in the class, students should know why they are doing such activities. The easily learn and remember faster if they learn through fun activities. In my case, for instance, in geography class, I had to learn how to draw a map of Switzerland so that I could learn faster by the visualization map. The second characteristic is that adults are autonomous and self-directed. At that time, I was a foreigner who could not speak any word of French so that I had to take an extra-class of ESL to catch up with other classmates in the school and studied vocabulary myself at home which improved my skill of French. I had to study independently in order to follow in the class. I also practiced my speaking with my younger brother at home such as the sentences that my parents should not comprehend (like a secret). The third characteristic is that adults need to be shown respect. My teacher respected me that I could not speak language and treated equally with other students. She did not ignore me since I could not speak French but in the opposite, she encouraged me that learning new language is a fun thing to do. The last characteristic is that adult learners are goal-oriented. My goal throughout the year was to achieve my level of French so that I could not have any difficulties to speak with my classmates and to understand in the class which was successfully attained.

 The teaching was mostly based on modern teaching. The teacher teaches us with various interesting activities. In other words, for each subject, it was based on the activities and students were centered. Each classmate had to express their thought and share ideas for the most of part activities. We can see how different they are and learn through their opinion. Also, it is very important to learn through the conversation among friends and communicating with teacher by asking or answering questions. The atmosphere in the class was based on the horseshoe type of seating arrangement where not only the teacher was the leader but everyone should be involved and treated equally.

 My teacher was both involver and enabler. She used various techniques of teaching so that students learn through fun and not under the pressure. Also, she was a very good listener where she knew the characters of each student and how to treat each pupil by mixing positive reward and negative punishment. It is very important that teacher should be aware of not only students’ background but also their thought and their feeling in the class.

 Including all these elements and furthermore, being enthusiastic, a good-listener and showing the respect toward the students are the most necessary compounds of an effective teacher. If the teacher has all these three, we can tell that he or she has an effective teaching method. To sum up, in my case of learning the second language was a big success since I remember the most of French phrases or words even now. In other words, I agree that if you learn the new language when you are young, it remains in your brain forever.