First essay assignment.

Learn & Run for the second language

(My Second Language Acquisition Experience)

**Name: Son Jung-Min (Mini)**

**Class: 73rd TESOL**

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**Teacher: Benjamin Valencia**

*“A single conversation with a wise man is better than ten years of study”.*

-*Chinese Proverb*

My first experience of earning second language was failed. Which was started from middle school, and until graduate University I studied English as second language in Korea.

In 2002, I decided to go abroad taking further academic education in UK, and in spite of having long time to earn English I had to take language courses for a preparation of the further academic enrollment.

*Even I had been studied English many years, why I needed the language course again?*

I believe there are ineffective teaching methodologies in Korean ELT (English Language Teaching) system. This essay will discuss about ELT methodology such as Traditional vs Modern classroom, teacher types, characteristic of adult learners and effective teaching through my second language acquisition experience.

**Different experiences of learning English.**

I can remember middle and high school of my English classes, where I firstly earned about English language skills; listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Most Teachers of schools were ‘explainers’. They spent a lot of class time using the board to explain things (chalk and talk). And they didn’t give much STT (student talk time). Also sometimes they did ‘jug and mug’ and gave much ‘transmitting’ knowledge without questions to the student. It made me lost concentration of the class and couldn’t able to attain much information. Consequentially, it made me get tired with learning English.

On the other hand, I found more interesting to learn English in UK. I had to learning English nearly from the beginning stage again. Because of my speaking skill wasn’t good enough to take further academic studies. When I enter the language school classroom, in my eyesight student’s tables were placed around the classroom and teacher’s positioning was in the middle of the class which is distinguished from typical Korean school classroom; normally teacher stands in front of students and also student sit following the tails of other student as like army bottle (Students not allow to see each other). It was quite open position and I felt more involved. And most teachers gave activity based and task based lessons (TBL) rather than giving the TTT lessons.

**Teacher Claire**

In my memory, there is best type of teacher I never met. Her name was Claire. She was intermediate level instructor of my language course in UK. She was absolutely ‘involver’ and ‘enabler’ teacher type. And also she was a very enthusiasm and good leader. More than half of students were from Asia and the others from Europe at that time. She organized groups that must mixed different background students and let them discuss and shared ideas. So, most of her class was engaged and activated as well. And she guided us with well-prepared materials such as cards, pictures, and wall chart. I’m sure that these visual materials make very helpful to understand who not from English using background people.

She always welcome students questionnaire and answered with warm-hearted. I can still remember her lovely smile. Also she was authenticity and shows full of respect to adult foreigner students like me.

**Challenge a goal.**

Not only the teaching methodology but also a learner approach to a goal is important to bring different results. When I take the English class as regular subject in Korea, I feel lack of passion as a learner. On the other side, when I needed a lessons I was more Autonomous & self-directed, and goal-oriented as an adult learner what Malcolm Knowles identified. If I didn’t make to decision go aboard and study, I could not have a chance to improve my English skills. And also I could meet different culture of people who has different background and experiences. This reason made me still challenging me to have new goal which is attain a certification of TESOL. I love to meet variety background people and exchange the knowledge and making good rapport as an experienced adult learner.

To sum up, language teaching methodology is very important how effect to students. It can make failed or succeed to someone’s goal. People who want to teach must learn teaching skills with their enthusiasm. And I also strongly believe who has genuine-mind, empathy, and shows respect to students will be an effective teacher, and they will make student let them fly. As a learner of TESOL I will put my entire endeavor to learn teaching skills and every time I will remember how they are important to student.