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**TESOL**

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**TESOL 01: Second Language Acquisition Assignment**

**Write a 500-750 word essay describing a second language environment that you have experienced. Was it a success or a failure as a language learning experience? Why? Relate your personal beliefs to concepts learned in the TESOL 01 module: characteristics of adult learners, traditional vs. modern classrooms, teacher types, and effective teaching.**

Nowadays, the number of second language learners is increasing dramatically to communicate with global societies. It is said that the success of second language learning depends on their experiences, attitude, and learning environments. Some language learners would say that their second language learning experience was a failure, but my experience of second language learning was a success.

Until I entered university, I had faced the traditional language environment and had some difficulties with understanding the second language – English. For example, middle and high school English teachers had conveyed information to the students. Students, including me, had been only listening to the lecture and taking notes, seldom communicating with each other. I think those teachers during middle and high school days were explainers. Their main teaching strategy was just to provide as much info as the school authority required and urged the students to memorize that info. Moreover, they lacked empathy with late learners and beginners and did not show much respect to the students who were poor at their studies.

However, attending university totally changed my English learning environment into a modern type. I joined English conversation club where I could communicate in English with colleagues from different departments, such as, the arts, engineering, business administration, etc. The club members prepared a variety of conversation materials including video tapes, role plays, pop songs, and so on. We took turns of being a discussion leader, and discussed one topic everyday with club members through group activities. Furthermore, all members respected each other, were actively involved in the activities, and empathized with difficulties that members faced. Through this experience, I could expose myself to active language learning environments in a positive way. I believe all club members enjoyed and succeeded in learning English as a second language. During these days, I was an involver as well as an enabler.

In conclusion, learning a second language is quite related with a learning environment and attitude. I was very lucky to have experiences with University English club activities to improve my English. Without this, I might have been putting my energy and resources into a receptive way of English learning – listening and reading. Now I am heading to a TESOL class to practice my English. After finishing the TESOL course, I will teach my future students the way I have learned by sharing my experience, and showing my respect and empathy toward them.