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*My Second Language Acquisition Experiences*

*I’ve looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself. ‘If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I’m about to do today?’ - Steve Jobs -*

I quitted my job that I worked for 2 years almost 1 year ago. Then I traveled in India alone as a backpacking for 2 months. At that time, I had a lot of troubles about language. So I thought I would learn English when I go back to Korea. As soon as I got home, I enrolled in an English academy. Actually that was my first time that I really want to learn something seriously.

I began to study English as an official subject when I was a first grade in middle school. At that time, I didn’t even know the English alphabet well and why I had to study English. Unfortunately I’m not sure if my first English teacher was a man or a woman. I only remember the teacher was absolutely explainer who just read the book alone and explained most time of class and sometimes asked questions. And we were required to memorize 10 words week after week and took a test. But I frequently forgot what I had memorized after test. Also I couldn’t use the words when I speak in English and couldn’t match with the situation. Understandably the class was really silent and boring. This is the reason that I lost interest in English until university student. I thought English is not a language like a Korean. It’s just that I have to study for receiving a high grade from examination. That’s all.

As you know, most of Korea middle and high schools had traditional classrooms where teachers would all be explainers who would write so much on the chalk board and students would be so busy taking notes. The diagram which is we learned before shows how well students remember what they are taught. The lecture and reading is not that technique.

2010, During I took a class I definitely changed my mind about English when I was in academy. At that time I am completely goal-oriented. And my instructor was an involver who gave us lots of relevant activity and subjects. He always used the words train instead of study or learn and also coach instead of teacher or instructor. He already knew I was a goal-oriented. So he pushed me and reminded me of the motivation. When he taught English he usually used lap top computer and beam projector. We watched sitcom the name is ‘friends’ then acted the play and made the situation play with over acting. But I didn’t like the teaching method because I was auditory learner character. I don’t want to play and act and role play like that in front of people. Sometimes we sang a pop song and analyze that. I liked that time. I just want to listen and see. He also didn’t make us to memorize the grammar. He tried to make English familiar to us first. I think my class was consisting with visual and musical and kinesthetic intelligence. This is the activity way to have interested in English. As time goes by my English speaking skill was getting better and then l could speak English easier than before. When I’ve got slump he always reminded me my goal and told me what I was doing well. Now I enjoy with English. I want to share this feeling with English as a Second Language (ESL) students.

In conclusion, Second language is getting important to us who want to achieve their dream especially English. So I think that teacher is very important job. They can make their students think positively or negatively about English. So I try to make my students familiar with English and have lots of fun in my class. I want to make them more interested in English. These days, classroom environment is getting changed. Speaking is the most important. So I have to make more fun activities such as game, group work, play, presentation like a Yu-na Kim did before in speech to attract Winter Olympic Games for their speaking.

The teacher must have more responsibilities beyond teaching. So after this TESOL course, I will try to figure out characteristics of learners and how to make them to retention.

“A watched pot never boils.”

I believe in that saying. The most important thing is enjoy the learning of language not how can they learn speedily.