**“My Success as an English Learning environment in International School”**

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Through studying second language as English since I was a little child, I think I got a lot of knowledge and interests generally, but also so much stress at the same time. Typically, it is considered to be very tough course to learn English in Korea even to students who have strong wishes or attentions on other languages like me. Most people tend to take “Learning English is difficult in Korea” for granted. I also thought same because I actually experienced lot of lecture using most of ‘Grammar Translate Method’ and same process focusing on reading, writing and memorizing every day from explainer teachers. However, when I had a chance to go Panama with my family and entered International School in middle school student, I earned a lot about English in very short time 2 years. I discovered my intelligence, proper language learning environment, and teaching style that is suitable for me. I also learned natural way of acquisition to raise my English ability to a higher level. Furthermore I could remember times in Panama and also think about perfect environment for second language learners to prepare this essay,.

When I first mixed with foreign friends and studied in international school, I realized my English level was about Pre-Intermediate and moreover, I could know my strengths and also weaknesses of each language skills. In abroad, most second language learners are receptive so they can clearly understand what English speaker says but have some trouble on answering in English. So I always concentrated on native speakers’ communication how they talk and tried to adjust to my real speaking. In that course, my intrapersonal intelligence helped me a lot. Mainly group works and discussions take part in international school. So I had many chances to listen how people naturally says and also to tell my opinion in full sentence as well. I think this kind of experiences supported me to balance all skills together.

I had silent period using just simple words or gestures because I felt very shy and ashamed of speaking in English when I first went to Panama in the age of 14. It was some kind of affective filter. I didn’t talk at all, just listened what people said. But lots of interactions with friends and modern teaching style changed my insistence and even developed my English learning. At first, I self corrected my mistakes when I was with my foreign friends by listening their talking and communicating with them. It was the most natural way to accomplish the skill. Secondly, I didn’t have to make effort or time to study English in class. I just had to follow teacher’s method that was focused usually on games, debates and funny visual aids. Class environment was not tight, was focused in cooperative learning generally. It was more enjoyable so I internalized the knowledge spontaneously with less stress.

I remember the teachers in Panama who were very nice. The most different thing from Korean teachers was the characteristics. Teachers in international school always showed respect to students and really listened well about personal problem. Even my private English tutor had same characteristic as school teachers did. Instead of scolding, tutor corrected my errors with offering encouragement, and taught me with explanation that I could understand easily. So I could become more confidence about my English speaking. I think I got less stress of making mistakes and felt more comfortable about asking something to school teachers and tutor. In addition, they didn’t even press students to study or mention about test results. The classroom was not teacher centered, was student centered so I sometimes came up front and leaded the class. Of course teachers were knew the subject matter well but they let students to have experience to involve in class. Maybe this kind of teacher type and teaching methods were helpful to improve my English skill better.

By looking all over what I’ve learned in international school, I could realize that I had valuable experiences that I can’t go through here in Korea. All the practices that I underwent there helped me to improve my English. I believe many different kinds of methods have to interact effectively at the same time for learning languages. As I listed above, discovering students’ level, intelligence, and learning differences should be made at first. Then consider what teaching methods, style, teacher type and all the desirable surroundings are appropriate to students to get real-life communication. All things considered, I could learn English skill in place where proper methods took part. Also I could acquire language skill more naturally than others. It was precious time for me to success in my second language, English.