**Second Language Acquisition Assignment**

“All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them”

–Walt Disney

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In today’s global village in which we live, nobody would deny that a second language is important for everyone. A second language is playing a major role in a lot of industrial, scientific and educational fields. It is true that people are trying to study a second language for different reasons. Especially, most Koreans are spending a lot of money and efforts to study English as a second language. Some people have successful experiences for learning English whereas others do not. I also have had some experiences for learning English as a second language. This essay will present both sides of my experiences and my opinions.

On one hand, there are some defeated experiences for learning English in Korea. I have attended an English institute for several months in 2005. However, I remembered that was not successful. In the first place, the way of teaching method was totally same as traditional classrooms. For example, the teachers used only text book and workbook, CD player was the only material in the classroom. They did not have various materials to improve student’s skills. They lectured with one-way teaching method. The teachers were only explainers. Even though teachers are all matured, well-educated and well-knowledgeable, the level of teaching skills was not satisfied to me. In the second place, favoritism shown by the teachers was very stressful. There were approximately 15 students in the class. Teachers’ teaching was focused on some students; they were not a good-listener to the majority of students. I believe that teacher should have an unbiased attitude and treat all students equally, their inconsistencies resulted in the demoralization of their students. Therefore, old-fashioned teaching style and unbiased attitudes led me astray.

On the other hand, there are some thriving occurrences an ESL course in Canada in 2006. First, teachers focused on what students needs and they tried to inspire students. The first day of my school life, I was allocated my class after consultation with the result of my placement test. A counselor and teachers asked me my needs in details. In the classes, teachers never blamed to students, whenever students have questions and problems to understand English, they always tried to meet students’ levels and inspire them to improve their English skills and confidences. For instance, when a student asked same thing for a several times, the teacher has not changed her voice and face. They empathized student’s problems. Hence, I felt we were respected by teachers. Second, classrooms’ atmospheres were much more flexible than Korea and teachers were not strict and serious. Their teaching style was various types. Each teacher had their own methods. Some teachers made students happy and entertained like entertainers. They prepared a lot of audio-video materials and used various ice-breaking methods and games with a pairs and groups in the classes. Moreover, student could understand easily and concentrated their lessons. Thus, modern classrooms style was helpful to improve English to me

In addition, there were various extracurricular activities such as tutoring, field trip, hiking, bike cycling, writing and sports class. All activities were optional therefore whenever students wanted, we could sign up and attend. I could be stimulated through empirical exercises and expand my horizon with various activities. Students could have more chances to make friends and speak English with easy-going teachers. By participating in these classes, students could able to find their interests and enhance skills for self-reliance, team interaction and furthermore, developing new structure of self-motivation and personal responsibility. Hence, not only classroom but also extracurricular activities were excellent language environment to me.

To sum up, as I mentioned above, I have experienced both sides of English learning participations. I believe that both sides of previous experiences would help me as an English teacher In the future. Namely, analyzing the past happenings helps us to reduce the faults. I should try to find a good way to teach English through all my experiences and knowledge. In order to be a good English teacher, I would prepare needs analysis and curriculum design for students. Moreover, I would like to be a good-listener and an easy-going teacher. Nothing can be obtained without any effort, I pledge my best efforts to improve my skills in all aspects.