My some successful experiences in learning English

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When I entered the middle school, I’ve learned English for the first time. As I’m a kind of person who has VERBAL & LINGUISTIC INTELLIGENCES, I fell into love with a new foreign language. To study English was so exciting for me like a game. At that time I decided to major in English when I enter the university someday.

When I was a university student, I tried many ways to improve my English. I memorized ‘33,000 vocabulary book’, studied American idioms, watched CNN all day long. Even some friends and I hired an American nun as a part-time English teacher for us to practice English conversation. But she was very strict in teaching pronunciation. Usually she found faults with my ‘r’ and ‘l’ sounds whenever I told.. She paid attention to accurate pronunciation all the time. But I thought too much emphasis on accuracy in learning English could make students lose confidence and interesting. It made me anxious and intimidated. According to Krashen’s AFFECTIVE FILTER HYPOTHESIS, I believe, FLUENCY is more important than ACCURACY in learning English.

After University, I went to America to study English for several months. And there I experienced some effective ways to improve my English. One day my English teacher, who must be an ENABLER, suggested “Scavenger Hunt” activity. (It’s a sort of go-and-seek game.) Our group was embarrassed. Nobody knowed what it was. We just should go and get something according to our mission paper in which written only ‘Victoria’s Secret’. Do you know what it is? Ha ha ha…maybe… It’s an American underwear brand for women. But as we had no clues about that words, we had to ask so many Americans to find out what it was, where to get it, how to get there, and so on. Unfortunately most people didn’t know that. We had to try everything to accomplish that task. It was very difficult and took a day almost. We barely carried out and just got back after sunset. It was fully immersed, intensive studying. Through that activity, I could low my anxiety and enhance self-confidence in English. That work seemed an i+1 activity of ‘INPUT HYPOTHESIS’

After coming back to Korea, I taught English at the English institute where were some native speakers. I could talk with them all the time. Whenever we went to the movies, went on a trip, had lunch together we could teach each other’s languages. Not only I but also they made mistakes frequently. But we disregarded minor errors. We talked freely whatever we want. Nobody cared about ”Does it make sense?” Because we were equal co-workers, not student-teacher’s relationship. That is, what’s good for the goose is good for the gander situation. It made my English fluent. It was so valuable experience which I’ve ever had.

Now I think the most effective way to learn English is through communicating with native speakers. We can improve our English as well as confidence. Learning English doesn’t mean only language as well CULTURE, DISCOURSE, RAPPORT. Feeling free to make mistakes, being courageous allow you learn whatever. I’d like to close my essay with my favorite motto. “Want it? Go get it!!”.