**My Success as an English Learning in America**

84th WK T/ Ji Min Kim

(697 Words)

Throughout Korea, it is emphasized to study English as a second language not only for children but also for adults. Learning English has become more and more important to Koreans who want to go to a good college and get a good job. As an ordinary Korean, I was also looking for a better way to improve my English skill since I was in high school. Even though I was a teenager with limited English, I decided to go to America to study English after completing high school. While studying abroad, I had very hard time to understand Americans the first. I realized that the way I had learned English in Korea was not the best way to learn another language. However, I discovered my learning intelligences, acknowledgement of characteristic, and teacher type that had leaded me to success in learning English while studying in America.

First, I would like to explain how distinct intelligence contributed to my success in learning English. When I arrived in America, I lived in a suburban area where I could not find many Koreans around my house. Next to my house, there was a very friendly family that tried to help me. Even though my English was not that good enough, they tried to speak to me all the time. Also, they invited me for their bible study, so I was able to listen to native speakers once a week. Whenever I attended the study, I always paid attention to what the native speakers say and tried to adjust to my speaking. In addition to that I had many chances to speak to native speakers in that group without hesitating. Just a few years later, I realized I was able to understand and speak English well. Compared to the many years of test-oriented learning in Korea, I believe that my interpersonal intelligence helped me to success in learning English.

Second, I would like to explain how my characteristics as an adult learner leaded me to success in learning English. As soon as I was able to understand English better, I thought about my academic goal as an ESL student. The main reason to study English was to come true my goal, an English teacher. As a very goal-oriented person, I worked very hard to improve my English ability for my goal. Also, the 6years of English education I had in Korea was also useful in the reading class. The most importantly, the teachers I had in ESL classes were very respectful. They acknowledged my goal, vocabulary ability and lack of speaking skills. Therefore, they encouraged for me to speak out loudly and showed empathy all the time. All the support from them gave me power to study English more and enjoy my learning. I think the teachers who acknowledged my characteristics and helped me to reach my goal played very important roles to my success in learning English.

Third, I would like to explain how teacher types contributed to my success in learning English. While studying in ESL course, my favorite teacher was the composition teacher. He always listened to his students, and gave us very interesting activities and creative group works. Since I was kind of a passive student because of the receptive education I had in Korea, taking his lessons was not easy for me. However, he was an involver, so he always checked on me if I understood or not and kindly questioned and explained all the assignment I did not understand. Furthermore, I became a more interactive and active student because of the interesting activities and group works he assigned. I believe the composition teacher as an involver also made me interested in English and leaded me to success in learning English.

In conclusion, discovering and facing my learning intelligences, acknowledgement of characteristic, and teacher type had leaded me to success in learning English. Being fortunate to study in America, I was able to discover my potential, meet great teachers and have a good command of English. However, I think you could be successful without studying abroad if you are passionate enough to find out your own learning characteristics and intelligences and have an excellent English teacher.