**What is Goal of English Education in Korea?**

 86th TCWK Eugene

When I was a student, English class had started since middle school. But I remember that English teachers could barely pronounce each syllable of English exactly especially when those were not contained in Korean. I can think in my English teachers’ defense nevertheless, they must have not experienced English acquisition environment ever in their schooldays. I have been always interested in foreign language but I always had thought I couldn't speak English unless I went abroad. One day, I heard from one of my friends she said she acquired Japanese from watching Japanese animation movies repeatedly and memorizing the lines and using those to others. So I decided to hear and speak English more than 4 hours a day through authentic materials like pop songs, movies and news. I have continued for more than 2 years and it did work out.

In my case, I had to study English to go to university and get a job when I was student. It had taken more than ten years to be well known about grammar and vocabulary while my communication competency wasn't developed at all. Not learning but pure acquisition of language started when I didn't care about exam scores or accuracies. I have had time to train how I speak like I got to know how I use chopsticks. I made study group (I needed to get much chances to practice what I heard from movies, songs and news), we've practiced to speak English whenever we met every week. Then after hundreds times of practice, I was getting used to structures also I’ve become to mimic the rhythm of English.

When my child went to English class I was surprised that many English academy still focus on reading and memorizing vocabulary even though it was a class for young learners. In Korea, English education always aims to get scores in the exam. Education's main part are always explains, receptive languages like reading and listening. We seldom practice productive languages like writing, speaking. So we can easily see a person who gets great points in the exam, though can't speak. Most Korean whoever graduated university can easily pick out grammar errors in other person's sentences even though they can't speak very simple sentences, they feel scare if there is grammar error whenever they say. When we acquire a language we should have confidence and patience. Every Korean has almost phobia that they might be humiliated when they say something wrong. Therefore they miss chances to practice English hesitating to say a sentence to make it perfect in their mind. But I think many Korean people agree to change the goal of Korean English education.

As an English teacher I want to focus on English as a tool of communication, not for scores. Like I did, Students need to practice their English one another and need to get some pleasure when they say to foreigner, the foreigner recognized what they said and answered to. To feel confidence we should focus on fluency than accuracy. I think grammar lessons should be started when the students are in higher than intermediate level. Even if the students are adults we need to recommend to use easy words. Teachers should make exact sound of English when they teach, especially Korean doesn’t have and we should know how to explain to let students make same sounds. I hope Korean education system can develop all parts of language such as reading, listening, speaking, and writing. I'll encourage my students to have much chance to get real language acquisitions in my class and their home. So I need to learn various methodologies of teaching in TESOL for Children class.

If school teachers can train students to use English as a communication tool in our class, students who are not available or affordable to go abroad to learn English need not to go abroad. These days we are living in global village quite different with past. I hope I can be a teacher who serves chances of using English and steady exposure to English environment as I did when I study English by myself in Korea But I wish I could teach my students with more effective ways than I did. I want to be a teacher who can give courage and confidence to make students keep going on because English acquisition is a really long journey.