TOPIC: SUCCESS OF SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

 THAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED

Subject: TESOL

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When I went to Slovakia with my family for my husband’s work in 2008, I wanted to communicate with people easily who live there including my children’s teachers at the international school. I found out about the City University which is headquartered in Seattle, United States. There is an intensive English program for preparing for entrance to business management or getting a job. I took the test which was only multiple-choice grammar and reading questions. My level was five and it was so high. If I finished six levels, I can be a student of the BSBA without a TOEFL score. It means the student can take lectures with other natives. I started the course in the fifth level class, but I have troubled in speaking, listening and writing naturally because I have never taken the classes. I could not understand the teacher’s speaking or express my thoughts and feelings. I had life experiences such as teaching children in Math and English and I also had strong goals to learn English. However, when I was in the classes, I felt like I was stupid and dumb. Fortunately, I met a teacher who only taught in the grammar class of fifth level and was a manager of IEP. I also met many teachers having various teaching styles. Among them, I want to talk about special teachers of two involver types and two enabler types. Two involver type teachers were in grammar and writing classes. They know well what were the students’ needs and were well-organized to teach the classes. Sometimes they explained subject matters professionally and also gave the students many chances to do interactive activities. Two enabler type teachers were in the speaking and listening classes. They liked to share with students to decide what topics the students were interested in. They were also guides and counselors. They gave the students quite a long times to do activities and also gave information when the students need to know the truth.

First, I want to talk about the involver type teachers. The grammar teacher was very professional and explained the grammar rules easily. Our text book was the third edition of English grammar called a blue book which was written by Betty Schrampfer Azar. The teacher started the class by explaining of grammar rules that we were learning that day. Her explaining was quite clear so that I could understand the rules clearly and answer the exercises easily. It was quite different grammar which was effective for using in real communication such as reading articles or speaking. There were so many activities in the book and we did many. Sometimes she used the newspapers to find the grammar rules which we learned. Many activities and using articles made the grammar class not boring. The writing teacher worked for a newspaper company as an editor before teaching this class, so he was very clear when analyzed our essays about what was needed more or what was unconnected to be logical. He started the class by explaining what kinds of essays we would write and how we did. Whenever we wrote the essays, we listened to the other classmates’ essays and discussed about what problems there were. After discussing, we revised the essays continuously and finally completed it. Its processing was helpful to improve my writing abilities so much.

Secondly, I would like to say the enabler type teachers who were in speaking and listening. One was a Canadian woman and another was a British man. The woman teacher prepared pieces of paper on which different questions were written every time. We chose a piece of papers randomly and then talked about the answers. We had many presentations and those topics were chosen by ourselves. There were various topics such as love, goals, the best thing, food and so on. My classmates were mostly Slovak twenties excepting one Italian young man and me. Through the class I could understand the thinking of Slovak twenties and cultures. The teacher also talked about Canadian culture and asked me about Korean culture, so we knew various cultures. I studied many various methods to show their research through the presentation as well. The British teacher started the class by asking what was new that

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day every time. In order to answer the question, I was interested in the news every day and that made me more knowledgeable in many areas. He also had many presentations and commented after the presentations about how our presentations could be perfect. He did not forget to encourage the students to be confident. Through both of the teachers I learned so many various topics and good attitude to show me in front of others. Sometimes they guided and counseled the students appropriately.

 In conclusion, my English learning was successful in the City University. Thanks to all teachers’ active teaching, my English has been improved so much. Even though I have studied a little short time to learn a second language in Slovakia comparing to learn English in Korea over ten years, I had big improvement in speaking, listening, and writing. Involving teaching methods and encouraging teacher’s attitude could make it possible. I would like to say a big thanks to all teachers in the City University.