Essay #.1 Second Language Acquisition Assignment

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I have experienced many different second language environments. But I didn’t succeed in all environments. When I became adult, at first, I started to learn English in the University as subject for general education. At that time I really was excited because I was looking forward to meet a foreign teacher for the first time. I expected that a class was different from a class in high school. But unlike my expectation which was exciting, it was boring. Teacher just explained grammar using only one text book, he is the explainer, and we had to test on every week. I did a group project just one time. His class was close to traditional classroom. Finally I lost interest in learning Eglish.

I think that adult students have their purpose to achieve. Therefore before teachers teach adult students, they have to know about student’s propose. However, my professor didn’t want to know about our purpose or interest. He just taught us how to give grade through the class. Of course, it is important for students to get grade. But it isn’t all. Through a class, we can get a chance to improve different abilities of English.

Generally adult students want to improve their communication skill, listening and speaking, not just writing and reading. Because they have a plan to trip around of the world or to get a job that need English communication ability. For those reasons, I think that it is effective to teach English through joining in group work, doing variety activities with communication and working based on student’s participation. It is close to modern classroom.

Secondly, it is very important to know about multiple intelligences of students. Each of students has different intelligence. For example, ‘A’ student has a verbal intelligence. Otherwise, ‘B’ student has a visual intelligence. Then teacher set a plan that mixed method involved with these two types, verbal and visual. However, if teacher use only a teaching method for intelligence, the class cannot satisfy all of students. So teacher should use various methods and keep balance to satisfy all them.

That is, Teacher has to be the enabler. The enabler knows about subject matter and teaches methodology and has social skills. These teachers share control or gives control of classroom to students. In other words, they become manager in a class. They help students become autonomous learners and influenced each other through many methods.

Although I lost interest in studying English, I still had to study English for many reasons. So I went to a special academy. I had to use only English in there and many teachers are more active and other students were motivated by their purpose, communication, a professional certificate and so on. At first, teachers surveyed to know my purpose and operate their class many various method. They used to use visual material or hold a debate or explain grammar in textbook. Sometimes we students just communicated freely for an hour. As a result, I could overcome my fear about speaking English and gained a confidence. It helped me decide to start Tesol.

Obviously it is important for students to have a goal for learning second language. If they don’t have any goal, they will give up learning easily since not easy to learn second language. However, it is more important not only a goal of students but also role of teachers. Because student’s goal will be changed as how teachers do.