**TITLE - Second Language Acquisition**

**Written by. Yeon Seon Lee**

The present day, it is called ' Global Time'.

Therefore, even ordinary people need several second languages for many reasons such as

daily communication, information research, job promotion etc.

In my case, I have 3 different second languages which is English, Japanese and Chinese.

As matter of fact, I better put Japanese and Chinese into the third and the forth language by

fluency. What made language ability different? What kind of educational environment,

learning method, linguistic aptitude could affect effectively?

It was 10 years old when I first learned English. I started to learn English by 'The

Audio-Lingual Method'. Starting with many good songs than changed to simple dialogues. It

really helped to form good habits through me listening to model dialogues with repetition and

drilling. It boosted me up to have great interest about learning second language.

Then I gradually met 'The Grammar-Translation Method' at some point as my level was

going up. Much traditional language learning in schools worldwide used to be done in this

way, and it is still the predominant classroom method in some cultures. Of course, it was

quite boring and easy to lose eager to learn. But it helped accuracy. As I obtained confidence

about English, I applied to English speaking competition and won the first prize every year.

Preparing the competition gave me STT(student talking time)and provoke both intrinsic

motivation and extrinsic motivation.

In fact, it was 1990s. Even though traditional teaching method such as 'chalk and talk', 'jug

and mug' sill dominated, I was very lucky to have better opportunities to actually speak and

communicate.

In case of Japanese, the level is beginner stage. When I was 22 I met a Japanese boy

friend at English talking group. Actually, learning Japanese wasn’t necessary to me because

relationship was based on English. As this relation went by, I naturally got some sense of

Japanese one by one. I learned by ‘Communicative approach(CA)’. Communicative Language

Teaching(CLT) is based on beliefs that learner will learn best if they participate in

meaningful communication. Based on good rapport, I had good participation without any

academic pressure. However, I didn’t pay attention to know Japanese letters ‘katakana’ –

originated by Chinese letters. Sometimes it is very hard to read. My Japanese was not that

perfect though I hardly had problems as I traveled Japan.

Lately, I have studied Chinese by CALL(Computer-assisted Language Learning)

method. This language educational program product I studied with is called Rosetta

stone. It is basically ALM(Audio-Lingual Method). Doing endless dialogue repetition and

solving CCQ(Concept Check Question). It was helpful. Actually, it is getting easier to learn

foreign language once I got some sense of learning English.

According to Stephen Krashen’s hypotheses, there are two ways of developing

language ability. Acquisition involves the subconscious acceptance where information is

stored in the brain through the use of communication. Learning, on the other hand, is the

conscious acceptance of knowledge about a language. In my opinion, acquisition is not

different from learning . Learning can allow acquisition which means the conscious

acceptance can be changed to subconscious as knowledge build up. Education field is quite

controversial with theory and method variation. There is no the best one.

I believe that the Key of second language acquisition is Steady interest and self motivation.

\*reference to the Learning Teaching by Jim Scrivener. - P.31