My French learning

Teacher: Jayme

Student: Clair(Park Ju Mi)

I have learned two second languages which are French and English. So far, learning English is quite successful compare to my French learning. Now I would like to talk about why my French acquisition ended in failure.

There are two periods of studying French. I took a French lesson in a high school for first time. I was very excited to learn a new language at that time. So my intrinsic motivation was high. However I lost my interest in learning since French wasn’t involved in subjects of the high Scholastic Aptitude Test. For Korean high school students, the test is the most important matter during their high school life.

This atmosphere affected teachers in the same way. I hardly recall my high school French teachers and their lessons. We were both very much unmotivated and this made difficulty in creating rapport between teachers and students. Even there are a competent teacher and a brilliant student in class, it is not easy to lead lessons result in success without deep interaction between them.

My second period of leaning French is when I was a university student. Actually I majored in French &Literature. But I try not to tell other people about my major because my French ability is really bad even I have a degree. I have no right to judge or evaluate my professors since I wasn’t a sincere student. But now I can tell several bad points of my professors from my TESOL learning.

There are five professors including one native speaker. All professors are over age 50 and they mostly managed lessons using the board to explain things and did most of the talking. In a language learning class, if Teacher Talking Times is more than Student Talking Time, students’ participation rate will go down and it means that it is hard to be enthusiastic for a learner. I believe that inductive class work more effectively in a language lesson.

I remember most Korean professors had deep knowledge of grammar so they were good explainers during grammar lessons. They conveyed clear information with various paper exercises. However they still used same methodology in the conversation class. I do understand it is difficult to have 40 students in a class for speaking lesson but I also know there are many ways to teach actively rather than paper works. I guess their knowledge of teaching methodology was limited.

It is much harder in a conversation class with a foreign professor. Learning French is not easy for Koreans since not many Koreans want to learn, and it is hard to find place or situation to use the language. So students were very beginners. Because of that I think he had really hard time to instruct lessons and usually bring a sample conversation paper and let us practice. If he did have strong ERT, he might have found better way to instruct us.

In conclusion, there are several reasons made my French learning failed. I was not motivated at all with neither extrinsic motivation nor intrinsic motivation. This is the main reason. Also teachers who taught me French, they had deep and wide knowledge of the language but they were not good to put their language ability to students what they know. That is why I hesitate to tell others that I learned French!