128th WD, Gang Nam TESOL

Jessica

Title: Inept approach to second language acquisition

According to Stephen Krashen, second language acquisition is learning a second language after a first language is already established. It’s important that when we read it above, we must not confuse acquisition with learning. How are both of them different from? When reading the book, *Learning Teaching,* I can recognize that how for me to learn the English was wrong. That is, I wasted almost 16 years on something useless. As a result, I studied hard when I was high school student. But my second language acquisition fails. To make the matters worse, I could not help losing my confidence and the English became my weakness. Why did I fail? And why did I suffer from the English? I will want to look for my inept approaches to the English through the learning of four important macro language skills – listening, speaking, reading, and writing. -

Listening and reading are called receptive skills, because listener receives information but does not produce it. What are the appropriate approaches of the receptive skills? Let me think about how to approach these receptive skills. When I read the text, ‘the task-feedback circle’ is certainly striking. It involves not only setting a sequence of tasks and checking whether they can do it, but also replaying the recording and reading something interesting again and again. That is, the guideline is process rather than product, meaning that the going is more important than the getting there. In this point, I consider my experience of second language acquisition- particularly receptive skills – as a perfect failure. There are respective reasons.

At first, in reading acquisition, my English teachers always said that we had to concentrate on details and understand everything. I was a sincere student. I believed my teachers’ saying. Obsessed with this thought, I spent a lot of time looking for the meaning of words, learning the trivial grammar, and making a perfect interpretation. And meanwhile, I was always afraid of a small amount of reading study. Now, I realize that my ways is wrong. What if I met at that time a teacher who knew the task-feedback circle?

The second, in listening acquisition, when I was young, my parents seemed to be little interested in my listening skill of the second language. And my neighbors all were native Koreans. That is, I could not listen to the second language until I was a high school student. That is why in my case, it’s the most difficult skill to master listening. Just like reading, my approach to listening was wrong as well. It’s important that I can’t agree to part of the text - it’s actually not necessary to understand every word in order to understand the information you might need from a recording - and It is not certain that my opinion is perfectly right. But I think that I should have to listen to, memorize, and dictation everything every word. Unfortunately, nobody said that when the recording was played, I had to learn in that way. So the harder I studied, the more frustration I felt.

The last, let me talk about the productive skills. Productive skills contain speaking and writing. Particularly speaking is commonly used interactively and in combination rather than in isolation. But just like saying it above, I was always in isolation where even none of my teachers spoke the English. And I didn't know that speaking and writing are important for the second language acquisition. I studied just only the part of the English which my exam contained. As a result, I don't care about productive skills until I would like to speak something in English.

There are two ways of developing language ability. Acquisition involves the subconscious acceptance of knowledge 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. Judging from this point of view, my experience of second language, the English, is full of the learning. Even I have never known how to learn the language until 2012 - Almost 10 years have passed since I graduated from high school. – Now that I know that there is a difference between the acquisition and the learning and how to acquire it, I will be able to acquire the second language.