How I learn Language, the English

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Learning language is not only learning language itself but also the culture hidden in the language. I started learning English when I was nine years old in the Philippines. It was really tough and difficult however, I see the beauty in it as it goes deeper and harder.

First, I have learned English through my guardian who took care of me when I was in the Philippines. He was the greatest teacher of my life and he still is. He sent me to summer school before regular school begins but of course, as usual, teachers in schools are explainers who just explain, explain and explain where I have to listen the lecture the whole class hours. On the other hand, my guardian was a type of teacher who was evolver who teaches the students but also let students do most of the talking. During afternoon when I am home after summer school, he made me to memorize 30 vocabularies a day. He also made me to make at least two to three sentences using those vocabularies and let me do most of the works such as speaking, listening and writing with those vocabularies. At first, it was so hard for me because I never seen those words in my life but as time pass by, I soon to get used to it and know when and where to use those vocabularies. He also made a rule to speak only English in the house. Sometimes I sneak outside of the house and shout in Korean because that was the only way for me to speak when I do not know English of it. Sometimes he orders me to buy food in supermarket or to ask where is something like shampoo or groceries and even bathroom. He also taught me through visual learning for example, when he is teaching the word “sky”, he just point at the sky and say sky. My guardian is a type of teacher who had ‘verbal and linguistic intelligence’ such as speaking four languages and easy learner for the languages, ‘logical and mathematical intelligence’ because he was really good at problem solving and technology and ‘visual and spatial intelligence’ such as having photographic memories so he was very smart while I am type of student who has ‘intrapersonal intelligence’ since I am aware of my goals, emotions, and belief and ‘logical and mathematical intelligence’ because I can solve things logically and understand some abstract ideas. It was not really hard to follow what he was asking for me to do, but in some way, it was tough. The teaching methods he uses were usually Total Physical Response such as guess what word is he saying and point at the objects that match to the word, uses Communicative way such as making me to debate with him and uses Grammar Translation way such as lecture translating from Korean to English to check my grammars, spelling, or sentence structures.

Second, I feel so thankful to him for teaching me English with so many different activities. He made me to remember the vocabularies so easy and never forget. There were some consequences though if I was not able to memorize the vocabularies but still, that gave me motivation to memorize even harder. He is the one who made me feel learning language is the best learning in the world. That made me to understand the person’s real idea, personality and culture. These teaching methods he used made my English level advance from beginner. I started to know the beauty of English as my English level went up.

To conclude, I learned really a lot from my guardian. He was not the professional teacher. He is senior pastor in church but the reason why he taught me English is because he is good at teaching. He has his talent and motivation to teach because he wants others to experience the beauty of language. He taught me English because he was taking care of me but also, he knew how much I want to speak English fluently. I learned not only to speak well and fluent in English with no errors but also to understand people whose native language is English. I never regret learning English or complain about how I learned. If there is an opportunities, I would like to teach students with those methods, ideas and activities that my guardian used.