**My Experience of**

**Learning Second Languages**

CLASS: TESOL 135th / WK

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As for second language, I have some experience of learning them. I made an effort to acquire them through various ways but those were almost unsuccessful. I’m going to describe my belief in and experience of learning languages that I have had.

The first one that I leaned as a second language was English as most of students in Korea did. I have still been learning English so I won’t mention the success or the failure of this.

The second language was French. When I was in middle school, we learned and studied most of subjects focusing on our grades regardless of preference. French wasn’t different either. In addition, our motivation of learning usually came from extrinsic factors. The French teacher in those days was usually an explainer. The teacher mostly used “Jug & Mug” method using only books. We were sitting in rows all the time and there was no conversation or discussion during class. Most of time, the teacher explained and let us memorize some important points. Students just listened to the teacher and absorbed what she transmitted. If students had any questions or wanted to raise objections, they were supposed to raise their hands and ask the teacher to get a fixed answer. All procedures were done by one side. Tests were usually in the grammar or reading section so students didn’t have to speak or write while learning.

The third one was Swedish. It was my major in university. There were many teachers, who had their own teaching methods in university. The grammar teacher was quite old so he didn’t use any tools like visual and auditory materials. He taught totally in a traditional way. The only activity we did at that time was reading the sentences in the textbook taking turns. On the other hand, reading and history teachers who lived and studied in other country were leading us to talk, discuss and solve problems for ourselves. They started the class by giving some topic that we were going to learn and let us do group work to find out some information through internet, specialized books. Through many activities, we could find out the interesting fact in history and remember what we became to know for a long time. They were enablers. In speaking class, the teacher was Swedish. He did use many materials and have us participate on conversations. The teacher always asked Instruction Check Question (ICQ) of us before starting some activities. I thought that it was very important and helpful for students who didn’t understand what the teacher said or who did something irrelevant and missed the teacher’s words in regard to refreshing directions. Moreover, after giving some directions, he showed how we had to do. He used ‘demonstration’ in order to help students to catch the meaning. He was an involver.

To my surprise, even if I have been taught two languages, I cannot speak in those languages at all. I could say the reason why I didn’t acquire languages resulted in both inappropriate teaching method and wrong learning method.

Looking back on my experience, I have certain belief about what the teaching and learning should be. When it comes to the ‘good’ teaching method (about language), I would say making students enjoy themselves and participate in the learning. Transmitting knowledge, making jokes, and doing activities could be all essential factors in class but the most important thing is interaction with learners. So learners can achieve something they need and gain something they expect from a class. For learning, I think some sustained stimulus for learners are required. I did well on French, but I forgot it as times went by. This is because my extrinsic motivation (getting good grades) was already accomplished and I didn’t have to use it any more. Swedish did I choose by myself as my major, there was no need after graduating. It did not have any strength for my career.

In conclusion, I believe learner’s ceaseless self-motivation and effort are required along with the teacher who gives them the right direction for the successful learning language.