TESOL Class #144 WD

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**My experience of Second Language Acquisition**

This essay is about my unsuccessful experiences of learning a second language, English. I would like to talk about a second language environment that I have learned and the way of learning I have experienced. I have been continuing second language acquisition almost 20 years now. However, I am still not fluent in speaking. There are some reasons compared with TESOL.

First of all, I did not learn how to make English sound and practice it enough. English classes in Korea tended to be highly focused on grammar rules, vocabulary for reading and tests. The way of teaching on a second language is not practical for me. I am usually taught by teachers who were taking many times of writing and reading parts instead of teaching speaking and listening. I had no ideas of using vocabularies and how to use grammar in speaking. Also, I only study for an immediate test or an exam which made me more had short-term memories. I cannot properly obtain and use it practically. For example, when I was a high school student, my English class had English words tests in every start of the lecture and if someone had answered wrong, she had had to write that words almost 100 times on the notebook for assignment. We just memorized them by any ways we could regardless of their own sound and usage. According to TESOL course, English skills are commonly used interactively and in combination rather than in isolation. The important thing in learning English is a balance among different language skills. We need to pay attention to what we do with language.

Second, Learning English environments made me a passive student. I was usually taught in order to have a high score and grade. I exactly didn’t know why I have to learn English. Anybody who taught me English didn’t tell me about the real reasons that means what makes me motivate. They said just study for your successful future like get a good grade in an exam or a good job. Those are some part of the reasons why we study English but, that reasons cannot be obtained everyone who study English. We should consider about how we can make students more actively rather than passive. Teacher in Korea spends most of class time to explain something. They didn’t consider the students’ individual learning differences. This kind of teacher relies mainly on ‘explaining’ or ‘lecturing’ as a way of conveying information to the students. Done with style or Enthusiasm or wit or imagination, this teacher’s lessons can be very entertaining, interesting and informative. But it can’t be good at all students or situations. A teaching based solely or mainly on this technique can be problematic. For the more, rapport between teachers and students is more important than ‘Explainer’ for students.

Last one is the Lack of confidence to learn English. I think it is most important to have confidence to learn other language. But most environments I have experienced learning English made me a passive student. I could not actively join the class. I think it is related with traditional teaching. In traditional class, the teacher probably does most of talking and is by far the most active person. The students’ role is primarily to listen and concentrate and, perhaps, take notes with a view to taking in the information. According to Stephen Krashen, the affective filter can be prompted by many different variables including anxiety, self-confidence, motivation and stress. It is always important to create a safe, welcoming environment in which students can learn. More and more students want teachers who have open thoughts. We should consider students’ modern demands, what they want and how can we help them more efficiency learning English.

To summarize, I think that the teaching method of second language learning needs to be changed and successful second language acquisition should be taken into consideration with various aspects. The most important thing is teacher’s role. They should recognize the level and motivation of the learners. Teaching should be done appropriate to student’s learning mode. A teacher should use their teaching style for student to improve efficiency. I will try to consider all three kinds of students-visual, auditory, kinesthetic learners. I want to be a teacher who makes good rapport with my students and teaches useful language skills like speaking. I will do my best to make a successful classroom.