TESOL 144th WD

2016/11/16

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Experiences of Learning Second Languages

Which details your experience of second lanauage acquision. Was your experience a sucess or a failure? Be sure to incoporate what you have learned in language and Laerning

When it comes to learning a new language, there is no judgement a success of failure because what truly matter is the process of learning itself, and there is always something to learn even from what seems like a failure. I have made various efforts to acquire a second language, English, through different ways, and I sincerely believe that all the experiences were very important and valuable for me.

I began to study English at Yoon’s English tutor when I was 10 years old . The first thing I learned was the alphabet. I remember listening to the alphabet chant from the tape and my teacher’s pronunciation, repeated after them, and finally could memorise. They used vocabulary cards fill of illustrations. Also, the fun storybooks triggered big interest in English, and I naturally learned to understand how the words function in particular circumstances. These were quite effective for a beginner like me.

In my middle school years, I started learning English grammar and reading skills. The teaching method that I experienced in this period was close to traditional Korean education. It was mostly about memorising all grammar rules like math formula so that I could well-prepare the exams in school. There was no communication or interaction between the teacher and students and we just listened the script content or answered to the teacher’s questions.

When my family moved to the US, I took the ESL class first in my high school, and the way of teaching was very different from what I’ve been experienced in Korea. I was very lucky to meet a proficient ESL teacher who guided me through a successful second language learning experience. She created an environment that guided and encouraged me to learn for myself. Sharing her own experiences, she appealed to me as an empathetic and authentic teacher, and she was patient and encouraged me by leveling with my knowledge, building up the lesson difficulty gradually. Also, the classrooms had many different kinds of activities such as the crosswords to teach the students vocabularies in an easier way with fun.

When attending the college, I was anle to improve my English with more proficiency. Taking lectures and classes with English-speaking students helped me upgrade my sepaking and writing skills especially through various discussions and reports. Most importantly, thorugh learning English at a more proficient level, I was able to learn and deeply incorporate the history and culture embedded in the language.

As stated above, learning a second language is not a matter of a success or failure. It is about what you can learn from each of your experiences. From my expeirences, I have learned that learning a language should focus on learning itself rather than results such as exams, which is why it is significant to learn in a natural and fun education environment.