[191th/WD] 정유인(**Diane**)

**My Experience of L2 Acquisition**

There is a hypothesis that explains difference between ‘learning’ and ‘acquisition’ in the way of developing language ability. Acquisition is related to unconscious acceptance like how people develop their mother tongue, whereas learning is conscious acceptance of language by studying grammar or form. In retrospect, my second language acquisition was unsuccessful. I studied English as a second language for more than ten years. Nevertheless, frankly speaking, when I try to speak in English, I often feel nervous and words are puzzled in my head.

If I had taken a snap shot of my English classroom in middle school, it could have shown clearly how the rapport was. There stands only one teacher in front of crowed students. The bond of sympathy between teacher and me seemed so week that teacher couldn`t be easily approachable and I hardly got private talk with her. In teacher-centered class, I was so quiet since just teacher did the most of the talks. My English teacher was more like an explainer type as any other traditional teachers did. All the students in every class learned and memorized the same contents by standardized curriculum. Individual learner differences like personal level and interest were ignored. I remember I recited a lyric of ‘HERO’ sung by Mariah Carey during the English class. Teacher had given us an assignment to memorize lyric of a pop song. Since I like music so much at that time, I enjoyed the homework. I listened and sang along `HERO` repeatedly and finally could memorize all the lyrics. It was great opportunity to get familiar with English. But sadly, the main source of English lessons were textbook. Activities or other creative supplements scarcely existed. Our multiple intelligence was not diversely practiced. I usually focused on the lecture and sometimes listen to the audio conversation. Of course, I wrote and read the script in the textbook as a whole. I didn`t need to think or be creative. Although the ideal teaching methods are supposed to combine the three modes of visual, auditory and kinesthetic together, there rarely was kinesthetic learning or realia. Most of the physical movement, I remember, was writing the copy of the script in textbook for memorizing. Because of simple and monotonous teaching methods, leaners retention rates stayed low unless students thrived to remember the hole script as one set. Students could get high grades as long as they remember the script and vocabulary in text book. Schools evaluated students’ English level by multiple choice questions which are limited patterns about grammar and vocabulary. The Exams didn`t function as a reliable barometer that showed students` English level because assessing language proficiency should be based on more criteria like fluency and pronounce, etc.

Those pattern of English teaching also cause lack of language skills and unbalanced language system. The textbook heavy teaching made students passive and I was one of them. Getting chances of making a conversation in English was not happened unless I practice after school in private such as tutor. Productive skills as speaking and writing are hard to improve. Moreover, in consequence of overemphasizing grammar, lexis or function were relatively ignored. One vocabulary was matched to one Korean meaning or example sentences showed limited usage of a word. I felt frustrated whenever I hesitate to put right preposition at a right place but it still isn`t clear. Even in casual conversations, I am obsessed with grammatical errors.

I feel so bad as if my memories of English classes looks all negative. I know the problems were not to individual teachers but in whole education systems. I had learned lessons from my experience of ‘learning’English which means failure of English `acquisition`. I can set detailed plan as second language teacher in the future. I sometimes blame monitor and affective filter in my brain since l studied English. Hopefully I would like to provide my students opportunity to exposed L2 speaking conversations and facilitate them to be creative as more as possible.

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