Three factors that affected my failure of acquiring Second Language

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According to Krashen, Second Language Acquisition is acquiring a second language after a first language is already developed inside of you. He insists that anyone could get a second language but children are much easier to acquire second language than adults. There are many different ways that influence how one person can acquire second language. My experience of Second Language Acquisition was unsuccessful by his definition because of these Big three reasons.

First, my English teacher wasn’t aware of good teaching style. Like most people in Korea, I learned alphabet first. My teacher didn’t know how to establish a Classroom Dynamic. He only focused on delivering knowledge and didn’t care about children’s motivation, background and interest. Our classroom atmosphere was scary especially when we can’t memorize the alphabet well. There are Individual Learner Differences among children. However, he couldn’t consider personalities and ability to remember things or speeds of learning for each child. He was a conservative Explainer among three teacher types and also Traditional teacher and used only Auditory mode among Three Learner Modes. In classroom, he taught English focusing on grammar which can show that only Linguistic/Logical Intelligence was used in the class. I preferred improving my Musical/Rhythmic/Interpersonal Intelligence but that was only my hope. My class was about 40~50 people. It was crowded and he could only use chalk and talk. I should be really quiet when he was teaching English and he was very strict about rules. Lecture based and teacher centered Mug and Jug class was not efficient environment for me to learn second language at all.

Second, The Affective Hypothesis and The Monitor Hypothesis by Krashen were great obstacles for me to acquire English. I was anxious, stressed when I learned foreign language. I wasn’t confident enough when speaking English because I care about the pronunciation all the time. The Affective Filter influenced me at that time. I thought that I couldn’t be a native speaker like Americans because I never been to the country. Furthermore, these emotional factors such as anxiety, stress, low self-esteem prevented me from acquiring second language naturally. I was young enough to get the English but I didn’t believe in myself. Therefore, those feelings kept bothering input to reach the language acquisition part of the brain. Also, I kept monitor myself whether I was doing or speaking English correctly or not. This monitor habit acted like a barrier as if forced me to slow down and focus more on accuracy than fluency. I really wanted to be a fluent English speaker but I was too busy concerning my accuracy at that time. Now I realized that It doesn’t matter at all. It wasn’t any shame for me to speak wrong words because it was just a process of second language acquisition. I monitored my intonation and pronunciation to correct errors but that was foolish. Filtering and Monitoring only acted like an obstacle to successful second language acquisition.

Third, I was goal oriented when I handle English since I become an adult. According to Knowles, adults are goal oriented and practical when they learn second language. While living in Korea, the purpose of my studying English was getting good scores on my tests. I was taught about how to get a good score at English tests. It made me frustrated about learning English in Korea. It was means to get a good score in lots of tests and became a perfect method of showing off my English skills. However, it was just a proof of how I could read well on the test, and it didn’t prove how good I could speak and converse with other people. Focusing on improving my skills of listening and reading brought me a good score in English test but it was only goal oriented and practical learning way in my life. I studied English to be a good student and get a good job. Studying English was just means to reach another goal.

English teacher’s type, my habit to filter and monitor English skill and goal oriented learning was big three factors which made me unsuccessful for second language acquisition. Now I believe that there are many efficient ways to acquire a second language but I didn’t know how at that time. And those bad habits still affected me when I learn another language. According to my former experiences, I could be far clever when I decide to learn third and fourth language afterwards.

\*total words = 740 words