Class Number: Timestesol 193

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My experience of 2L acquisition

I believe that my experience of 2L acquisition was successful.

**Without monitoring to use English, it has been helped me to acquire the language.**

Most English classes from grade schools provide grammar instruction. Class rooms used to arranged desk toward a teacher and board. All students should had written and memorize only and could not have any chance to question during the class. It was not necessary for teachers to established positive classroom dynamic. Most of them was explainer type. In strict, quiet atmosphere to monitor all the grammar and spelling, students were highly anxious about the English language class and had lower interests and self-esteem.

After graduation, I could have many chances to meet the people from abroad and communicate with them for work, language course and even travelling. I used to hesitate at the very beginning to talk because I always got low score in English. I thought my English language skill was way below. However, all the time when I talk to someone in English people had been cheering me. And I realized my English language fluency was not bad. Literally I could communicate with people in that language.

From these life experiences, I could tell that the affective filter hypothesis worked on me. When I felt safer and more welcoming atmosphere and cheering and encouragements helps to acquire the second language.

**In my own interests, I acquired English as the second language with using multiple intelligences and various approaches.** That helped me improve my strengths and recognize weak point. Individual learners have difference.

In my case, I could get more knowledge with visual and auditory mode of three learner mode compared with kinesthetics. When I could feel easier to get the language when I could use visual intelligence and intrapersonal one. On the other hands, to get the second language I needed more effort to use logic/ mathematical intelligence and verbal/linguistic one.

I tried to find proper media or approaches. For examples, I love to go for movies and exhibitions. Both are visual work. I could watch movies and see art works. Using visual intelligence made me feel interesting and free. Then I tried to research about a movie or art works in English. Then I read the information and knowledges. That time I found my favourite movie titled ‘Talented Mr. Reply’. And I had knowledge about abstraction art in 1930’s and 1940’s from Europe to New York. Still when I have time, I do same things. But now I extend the topic. Included movie and arts, I m interested global issues, interior design and travel, and so on.

Acquisition the second language is different to study a language subject. At this point, I agree with ‘Adult Learning Theory and principles’ of Malcom Knowles. From his theory, I would mention two things. The first one is ‘Adults are internally motivated and self-directed.’ With my own interest I could drive my self to get the languages with multiple intelligences and various approaches. The second one is ‘Adults bring life experiences and knowledge to learning experiences.’ After having small achievement, I extended my experience by myself. New experience brings another knowledge and information in English. So, it was helpful a lot to get English to try as many I can experience as possible.

**Fortunately, I had many opportunities to apply what I had learnt from studying on real life.**

From grade school, I had learnt a lot of grammar, lexis of English language. But as I mentioned before, explainer type of teachers gave instruction like mug and jug type from teacher to students and there was no two-way communication within a class. It was overwhelmed for me to acquire English as the second language. Then when I had travelled overseas worked in abroad, I could use knowledge from grade schools what I had studied. I could use grammar, vocabularies. If I made some mistake, I rephrased what I had spoken.

According to input hypothesis of Stephen Krashen, second language acquisition occurred when a learner received message that he/she could understand. Only comprehensible inputs can help people get long term knowledge of the second language. Not through the studying on desk, but from life experience, I finally can be sure I got the second language acquisition

From my experience, I had studied a lot in classroom with teachers. But acquisition of language was different. With many practice of speaking, writing and grammar, experience of second language acquisition should be enjoyable and self-directed as like my own experiences.

(748 words)