Name : Yoona

 Class Number : 197th WD

My experience of L2 Acquisition

There are basically the two ways to develop L2. One is Acquisition and the other is Studying. I've been studying English over ten years. My experience of L2 is studying.

I'm going to tell my experience about it as below.

According to research, there are two styles of teaching. (traditional and modern teaching)

In Korea during the 1990s when I was in middle school, I experience only **traditional teaching.** I was made to be passive, not speaking or listening, just chalk in talk. There are 3 teachers type (explainer, involver, enabler). I can easily recognized my teacher is **explainer**. He taught English without communication with me and forced me to memorize it and to write it down. He spoke only Korean. I've never done a group work with my classmates. I had to be quiet and I had no chance to speak. It was boring. We spent a lot of time to read and write to get a good score. Therefore I came to know about English grammar and vocabulary, but I couldn't communicate effectively. I even memorized listening part that comes out frequently to answer the question. It was necessary to pass the exam. Especially, I was not good at speaking. There was not speaking part on my English test. So I didn't need to try to speak and teacher didn't spend time to talk with me. We spoke Korean in the classroom. As a learner, I was totally **rule formers**. I got good score on English tests, but I can't still speak fluently. I hesitated to speak and missed opportunities. I was very concerned about errors. That made me a slow speaker. I thought I have to speak accurately. Teacher pointed out every single my mistakes. That makes me feel uncomfortable to speak.

As stated by **multiple intelligence** theory, I'm interested in visual, kinesthetic, musical and intrapersonal intelligence. But I learned English only by verbal/linguistic way. My teacher taught me by explaining the definition and meaning. I think it was not effective for me. I prefer visual and kinesthetic modes of **three learner modes**. According to research done one **learner retention rates**, different teaching techniques affect how much learner retain what they learn. I was only taught by lecture, reading and audio-visual techniques. These aren't effective at all to remember.

In addition, I didn't have good **rapport** with him. My teacher didn't ask me what my goals were. He didn't listen to my reasons to learn English. Rapport is bad for me. It means there was an almost complete lack of awareness of **individual learner differences**. I had only external motivation in my school days. My parents and teachers forced me to learn English to pass the college entrance exam.

I think most important qualities as effective teacher is really listening to students. So my teacher had to have empathy for my situation, what level I am in, what I want to learn. If he does it, we'll communicate more clearly. I didn't get **effective teaching**.

According to Stephen Krashen's **second language acquisition**, my L2 acquisition is not successful. I learned it from studying. It means that the way to acquire English is memorizing. When I try to say something, it didn't come out of my mouth naturally.

It's easily forgotten. And the monitor in my brain works to check my word all the time.

I was anxious to speak English not to make mistakes. It prevents my fluency. Also I didn't get a comprehensible input. So I feel English is very difficult one.

Unfortunately, my motivation is low too. My parents and teacher made me study English. I learned English for pass the test. It's all external motivation. I don't have any self esteem for speaking English.

My second language acquisition is unsuccessful. I learned English for study. So, I can get a good grade but it's not helpful to speak fluently. From this essay, I realized the way I learned is not effective for me. I think it's important to have high motivation and confidence without anxiety for making mistakes as L2 learner. Teachers and students should always have a good communication and relationship each other.

Learning a second language is not easy, but if we keep in mind those things, we'll succeed.

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