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 **Class Number:** 198th WD

**Essay Topic: My Experience of L2 Acquisition – Success or Failure**

I take my stand that my experience of English as a second language was an achievement. My experience in Bournemouth, international School and teaching English all support with evidence that it was one.

My experience for second language acquisition or developing the skill for English began when I was at the age of 5. Due to my parent’s English training in 1995, my family was to fly by airplane to England Bournemouth and live there for about ten months. At that time, I was to be engaged in an English program at a British Kindergarten school. At the first day of a class, although it has been more than 20 years, I still remember the **classroom dynamic**. First of all, I was the only Asian kid and the gender were mostly females. The student attitude towards the teacher was very positive I barely recall any memories of my friends at the time misbehaving towards the teacher which allowed me to behave in the right way. The British teacher would use **three learner modes** whenever she taught a new topic. For example, when describing animals she would give us pictures, make side effect noise of the animal and then actually move like the animal which enabled as young kid use my visual and spatial intelligence, bodily and kinesthetic and lastly interpersonal as I would mimic the noises with my friends at the time. To come to think of it at the time **multiple intelligence theory** has been well applied because it was hard for me to learn a new language at the beginning but later it became easier.

After ten months of a wonderful stay in England, my family was assigned to the mission field called Cambodia. The capital city of Cambodia is Phnom Penh and my second language acquisition started again as I entered the school called Northbridge International School of Cambodia. Contrast to the British school that I’ve attended the new school in Cambodia was an American school. The school would **assess my language proficiency** and assigned to a grade below age since I was considered as a false beginner. I was limited to my speech, writing, and understanding in a certain situation. Thus, I was assigned to an ESL class which is for student who has difficulties with English as their second language. The principle wife was the teacher at the time encouraged me to use my **language skill and system**. She would gently explain about grammar, vocabulary, functions, and phonology of the word so that I could pronounce the word in a more confident way. She was opposite to **traditional teaching**, she would allow peer evaluation to see for my pronunciation and asked for classmates to inspire me on talking more in English. I was also a poor writer at the time, she would come close to me and visually aid my writing and give comments such as “you have big potential Yohan.” Although there is much to talk about her. To make it short, she was really an involver **(three teacher type)** who created a strong **rapport** not just with my friends by with her and me. Lastly, she was also an **effective teacher**, she would really listen to the teacher’s full sentence and never intervene as the student spoke.

As time passed even further, after my military service I was offered a job in my university as a part-time lecturer to help undergraduate students to speak English in a more confident way. At this period, I became the teacher who had to teach and mentor other people. My **learner retention rate** consisted mainly of the teaching and mentoring aspect which creates 90% effectiveness. I had to prepare the material beforehand and really grasp the understanding of English pronunciation and grammar. Thankfully the students really liked my teaching thus my motivation was always high, and my self-esteem was also high, which allowed less anxiety for me go to class and teach. Thus, the **affective filter hypothesis** was occurring, I became more confident acquiring different English skills for my student and it assisted me to become a confident English user.

To summarize my short life experience, it was an accomplishment for me to acquire English as a secondary language. My experience in Bournemouth, my ESL teacher and my experience on teaching all came down to that conclusion. This assignment has taught me to use the nine module contents that we have learned and really reflect on how the nine modules have been activated throughout my life.

**Word 750**