My Experience of L2 Acquisition – a Success or Failure?

In my opinion, my experience of L2 Acquisition was failure. Basically, **Acquisition** means you get something or languages naturally like first language. I can say Acquisition cycle could be started from listening-speaking-reading-writing. Think about when baby learned his mother tongue, he kept listening from his parents, and from some moment he started mumbling and shadowing that words. He could say words, sentences, compounds and so on. After speaking, he would learn how to read and write. Once he reads a lot, the conventions of language is acquired and absorbed. It becomes part of him. Later, he would learn how to write. That’s how we learned our first language. However, in my experience from the time I first started learning English at age 14 to the time I graduated from high school in Korea, it wasn’t like this. I have learned opposite way from reading and writing to listening and speaking. Actually speaking is less part of all. Even now I have realized there was **language skills & system** which we had to learn first and what we used to analyze language.

When I was in school, everyone had to focus more on reading and writing or grammar than speaking and listening. Even teachers and students don’t have a good **rapport**. In the 1980s Howard Gardner created the **multiple intelligence theory**, which is based on the idea that individuals have at least seven distinct intelligences that can be developed over a life time. Through this theory, I could see I was more Verbal-linguistic/spatial/kinesthetic person and some classmates are same as me, or they had intelligence. However, the English class which I participated wasn’t concerned student’s **individual learner differences** at all. If teacher saw carefully his students with respect, authenticity, empathy which was in **effective teaching**, learning second language could be more effective and helpful.

 For example, there were major differences between **traditional teaching and modern teaching** in the classroom. When I was in English class, there were many students, almost 50 students with all levels. Some were in Beginner level; some were in low intermediate level. We didn’t involve in appropriate level. So even we didn’t know about something, we rarely asked teacher about questions, teacher the only one who talked and gave us too many information which we didn’t understand well or couldn’t use in real life. Teacher was more like ‘Explainer’ from **three teacher types.** But recent class has been changed a lot. I could see it through my previous workplace and the class which I have taken now for TESOL. Teachers were more concerned about how well students remember what they are taught based on which technique the teacher uses and what it is the most effective ways to students. Furthermore, not only teacher but student also changed a lot. They were more active student unlike before and did pair work or group work well.

The fact that I struggled to remember what I learned in class is supported by **Learner Retention Rates**. I was **Rule former** when I studied English. I was very concerned about errors and wasn’t used to speak it out; even it was one simple sentence though. Not only me but everyone was focused on English test a lot. But now students were ingrained errors, they didn’t care that much and more talkative in English a lot. They are **Data gather** actually. They knew well about **Language skills & system.** They mostly learned second languages like same way with first language. That’s why they could learn very effectively way and the subconscious acceptance of knowledge where information was stored in the brain through the use of communication. This is the process used for developing.

In the End, as I looked back upon my past, I still think my experience of L2 Acquisition was failure. Through I prepared this assignment and I took a TESOL class with many methods to teach and learn Second languages to students in effective ways, I just realized how it was not useful, helpful when I learned second language. Moreover, I have learned and could see how I would teach and approach to individual students in the future. It helped a lot and I won’t forget this which I learned.

Word count: 709