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Essay Topic: My experience of L2 Acquisition – a Success or Failure?

**Second language acquisition** is a process by which people acquire the capacity to perceive and to comprehend the 2nd language. Upon L2 acquisition, they are able to use words and sentences to communicate freely. My experience of L2 Acquisition was a Success. To illustrate my experience of L2 Acquisition, I will discuss my experience during my time from High School to College in America.

Fascination that I had with the culture was probably the biggest key in my development of English skills. Upon arrival I had close to zero knowledge about the English language or the American culture. I had no capacity to comprehend, read, speak and write English. Such a drastic difference in setting from Korea to America made practically everything in America to be interesting and fascinating. Because of my fascination with the culture and people, my curiosity **motivated** me to engage with the fellow students at school and variety of different places thorough out my years in America especially early on.

Drawing upon the lessons from language and learning, I realize my preferred **learning mode** was visual and auditory. By seeing and listening to people speak and behave, I was able to first derive meaning from their actions and speech. Continuous **comprehensible input** led to deeper understanding of the words and sentences. After a while, I was able to apply some of the learnings to my own speech.

Looking back, I believe I was able to acquire English because of people surrounding me during my years in Highschool and in college. Teachers and friends really listened to what I was saying and allowed me to freely express myself although my English was far from being perfect. Teachers made the classroom atmosphere **free of Anxiety** therefore made the **classroom dynamics** very conducive to learning.

Inside most of the classroom environment, teachers were highly **effective**. Many projects involved having to work in a teamwork environment and required many brainstorming exercises, team discussions and activities. Sometimes teachers would plan a field trip to help aid students’ better understanding of the subject matter. Because I was in a team environment most of the times, I had to actively communicate with my team members and to teachers which led to further development of English skills. This kind of classroom setting was more conducive to my learning since I was more of a **data gatherer rather than rule former**. I was more accustomed to learning new information through communications and doing. Teachers were very effective in that they were very enthusiastic, knew his or her subject matter well, and also gave clear and positive feedback.

Teaching method that I encountered was more **modern** way as opposed to traditional. Classroom size was rather small which allowed students to freely speak and ask questions and encouraged small group activities. Discussions held in classroom was more students centered. I remember teacher talking time and student talking time was in good balance. Teacher was more of an **involver** than the explainer. This way, it allowed more free discussions and more interactions to take place between teachers and students and between students. Because students had more time to speak and communicate with fellow students, the knowledge or the subject matter became more of student’s own and **retention rate** became high.

When I first landed in foreign country, I started with the very basic ESL class then eventually went up to more advanced levels as my level of English was improved. Teachers were aware that certain structure of a language are easier to acquire than others and that language structures should be taught in an order that is conducive to learning. Teachers provided as much comprehensible input as possible and did not allow native language to be spoken inside the classroom.

In conclusion, my acquisition was a success. Although it is a continuous process, I believe language should be acquired. Using the principles, I learned in Language and Learning, I was able to draw upon my experiences and apply how each principle helped to achieve my L2 acquisition. Because of such environment where information was freely flowing and interactions taking place, it was much easier for me to grasp the information and make sense of what was happening which eventually led to my L2 acquisition.

Word count: 750