My Experience of L2 Acquisition – a Success or Failure?

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In current society, the importance of second language has increased for the past several years, so many people try to learn second language(L2). However, most people approach the L2 as study does not acquisition. **Second Language Acquisition (SLA)** means learning a second foreign language, just like learning one's native language. In my opinion, based on my experience with this concept, my acquisition was a failure. In this essay, I will deal with my experience that I studied English as a L2 during my school days in Korea.

Most of all, acquisition emphasizes **high motivation**, **high self-esteem** and **low anxiety** to get the L2 effectively. However, when I first met English in middle school, I had very low motivation because I met the language just as a kind of study like math and economy. The only reason why I studied it hard is just to get better score from the exam. Thus, it did not interest me, and gave me quite high anxiety. Moreover, among **three types of teacher** (**explainer**, **involver** and **enabler**), most teachers who I have met during schooldays were explainer. They sent their knowledge to students like mug and jug.

They usually taught us in static circumstance. Someone did not eye contact with students during his whole class. He just looked at his book and read it. My classmate and I were just busy writing down what he wrote on the board even though we did not understand what it means. Those classes were perfectly **traditional**. Students participated less in class and the rate of teachers accounted for the majority of the class. Also, there were more individual activities than group works, and the use of textbook was usual rather than some other teaching tools. As time goes by, the tools of the class have developed, but the textbook took up a large part in the class. Naturally, teacher and I did not make a good relationship, which means that we did not have good **rapport**, because we had little interaction during class and the If we do not ask questions, the teacher accepts that we understand everything he taught us.

In addition, the teacher concentrated on teaching grammar. The rate of grammar in their classes was enormous than other part such as speaking and listening and, grammar was main criterion for the test. Although there was a listening test, its weight was very small and most of questions were about grammar. The **class dynamic** was bad. The level of studying English was getting more difficult, not only me but also many students gave up studying English and a lot of students slept or did other work (studying other subject) in the class. This attitude also lowered the teacher's enthusiasm for teaching. To improve these problems, after I entered in a high school, my school subdivided the English teaching into 3 classes depending on students’ grade. However, it did not consider **three Learner Modes.** The **three learner modes** include **visual**, **auditory,** and **kinesthetic** but the English classes that I attended were mostly based on auditory, because I heard the teacher’s teaching, or some education videos related to English. Unfortunately, I do not think that the method of teaching was not helpful for me because it was almost Korean.

Lastly, according to **Leaner Retention Rates**, my L2 acquisition was failure because almost my classes were composed of lectures. The best way to succeed the acquisition is teaching but, they had low student talk time and participation during classes. Thus, the lecture could not help me to remember for a long time what I learned. As I did not know this, I just tried to memorize the theory and vocabulary rather than teaching someone.

In conclusion, I did not know effective method to learn English and I was passive. I think this type of education is a typical problem that the educational institutions face in Korea. Teachers should try to create a comfortable educational atmosphere for students, and try to make it a useful time, not a burden for them. Through this assignment, I once again came to think of the importance of effective teaching methods, and realized that the role of teachers and the relationship between students and teachers were really important in learning. Based on the experience of my failure, I want to be a teacher who teaches students not study but acquisition.

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