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My Experience of L2 Acquisition – a Success or Failure?

**Second Language Acquisition** means a way of learning a second language (L2) after your first language has been learned. It is similar to the way people learn their first language. In this regard, I think my experience of L2 is a Success. I will introduce the time I had acquired English the most in my life. It is when I went on a long-term business trip abroad and the total duration of the period amounts to about 5 years or more.

I had worked as a manager of software developers in IT company and spent long time in foreign countries to build operating system of the customer’s company. I had to get and analyze requirements through verbal discussion with users and documents described their existing work flow. Based on the collected information, I let staffs develop the software as requested. In this process, English was the only language that I communicated with users and our local staffs. I worked with both native speakers and non-native ones but speaking English fluently. I’d like to explain how I had acquired English during those times.

One of my colleagues among local staffs was a sort of English teacher to me. She was not a real English teacher but what she had shown to me was the same as the teacher’s quality in L2 acquisition. It seemed that she already understood the importance of **Rapport** and how it can facilitate the efficiency of work and my English as well. A close and harmonious relationship had been built all the times. Moreover, she had **Effective Teaching Quality**, such as empathy, authenticity and respect. She expressed empathy for what I spoke in English about some issues and encouraged me to keep speaking until I finish my opinion. In addition, she respected my thought and views without judgement. With this condition she created, I felt comfortable and became not to hesitate to speak English. This is why I define her teacher type as an enabler. I can say that the office we worked together was the same as the classroom and **Classroom Dynamics** was achieved with positive atmosphere which had facilitated me to acquire English effectively.

When I look back those times, **3 Learner’s Modes** were applied properly in my L2 acquisition. We always discussed some issues raised by users with visual materials including graphs, charts, pictures, and video clips. I also got lots of phone-calls from users and had to understand what they talked to me and had meetings & discussions if necessary. Moreover, I provided hands-on material to users and had them familiarize with it. All of these activities involved visual, auditory, kinesthetic mode accordingly. When it comes to English acquisition, the colleague who I can call my teacher enhanced my strength of **Multiple Intelligences** more and more, and even my weakness of them as well. When she explained some matters to me, the way she did was not always same to others. That means she seemed to consider **Individual Learner’s Differences** because we have different motivation, ability to remember things, and personality.

The office could be regarded as a **Modern Classroom** where variety of activities and group work were going on. I was able to improve my listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills in balance. Analyzing user requirement documents and doing verbal interview with users to understand their work-process had promoted my perceptive skills, such as reading and listening. On the other hand, I had developed productive skills including writing and speaking by making technical user manual and having conference call & presentation. 5 **Language Systems** were also obtained in a balanced way, so I was able to make significant improvement in English.

Discussions, live demonstration and my colleague’s teaching and mentoring were main techniques during our work. It made my **Learner Retention Rates** higher. I was a **Data Gatherer**, since I became a fluent communicator and more social although I had inaccuracies and ingrained errors in speaking English. When I started working in the foreign countries, I think I was in between High Beginner and Low Intermediator but changed to High Intermediate gradually in the end, if I find my position in the **Assessing Language Proficiency**.

When our motivation is high and we receive comprehensible input in a zero anxiety environment, we can acquire second language successfully. This is the same way I had acquired English and I have no doubt to make same environment for my students in the future.

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