My experience of L2 Acquisition – a Success

When it comes to learning L2, there are two ways to be done. First would be the studying where students formally take an education. This may seem to help in learning English but it would take serious amount of time and energy. Another way would be through acquisition. According to Krashen, “a **L2 acquisition** is a way of learning a second language after your first language has been acquired or learned. Acquisition is a subconscious acceptance of new language while studying is a conscious acceptance of knowledge about a language.” In this essay, I will discuss on how English came to my life as L2 and how acquisition became a success for me.

I was born in the South Korea, Incheon on January 1994. When I was 7, I was at my first grade when suddenly my father had to work in Philippines because of deployment from his office. He went first for few months then asked the whole family to come over and live with him. That became the start of my life abroad and the start of my L2 acquisition. I did not know any English and I had to go to school to learn it but before I did, we had a housemaid and she had a daughter who was of similar age as I. The housemaid asked my parents if her daughter could live together with her in our house since there is no one to take care of her. Our parents agreed and eventually, I became friends with her. We played every day together even if I did not know the language and just started with the body language. There is a saying that learning language at a very young age will help a person to learn quickly. That was true since after few days, I started to speak some words. To be honest, I don’t even remember when I started to speak English fluently.

As I got older and went to higher levels in school, the lessons got more in-depth where I should give my ideas and opinions about certain topics. The arrangement of the classrooms in Philippines is more **traditional rather than modern.** However, teachers were creative in teaching their students and the **classroom dynamic** was good and very enjoyable. Teachers would try to interact, form a good **rapport** with the students and ask questions so that they would be trained to think. Not all teachers were **lecturers** but there were **involvers** too. They would use the **three learner modes** in order for us to understand the lesson better. I took basic education needed in English so that it would help me improve my **English skills and system** especially in grammar and vocabularies but mostly, I learned to speak naturally through my friends since they were all Filipinos and whenever I say something wrong, they would correct me in a respective manner which helped me a lot. My friends understood that I am still lacking compared to them since they know that I don’t use English at home unlike them and respected me for who I am which became an **effective teaching method**.

Based on my experience, the best way to learn English is to learn it from everyday life. I have two cousins who came to Philippines to study English and both of them had different results. The first one was eager to learn the language so he did not just study at school but also hang out with friends and used English in his everyday life just like a **data-gather** while other wasn’t fond of learning so all he ever did was just study and not use it in his everyday life like **rule-formers**. The two results were completely different since the one who was eager speaks fluently without any fault until now while other forgot how to speak the language and did not acquire any second language.

I believe that my life I spent abroad is a gift that not all Koreans can receive. Because of it, my L2 acquisition was a big success. When I speak English, I don’t have to think too much to put my words together which makes it natural. Also, through the TESOL course, my perspective on English teaching changed. I never thought of L2 acquisition in my life and just thought that I learned it through studies but after the lesson, I realized that I did not study but acquired it and that is how L2 should be learned.

Total words = 749