My experience of L2 Acquisition – a Success or Failure?

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Acquisition is the process by which humans acquire the capacity to perceive and comprehend language, as well as to produce and use words and sentences to communicate. When I think back the time, I learned English, I think my acquisition was successful. In this essay, I will deal with the story I learned English in Singapore from 14 to 20.

I still cannot forget my first school in Singapore. Everything was strange, scary, and nervous because my English was poor. My first foreign teacher was an English teacher, and he was a counselor at the same time, and he has been consulting ESL students who cannot adapt to school and giving them constant attention to help them adapt easily. At that time, his interest was burdensome, but in retrospect, I think he was trying to build a good **rapport** with his students. He was interested in the students. When he talked with the students, he easily figured out their interests by considering their nationality and continued the conversation by matching their English level. Moreover, students who were passive like me were encouraged to consult more actively. Considering what he has just done to his students, he has identified their **individual differences** and dealt with the accordingly. He tried to form a good rapport not only when dealing with counseling but also when teaching students. He listened attentively, even if my words were not grammatically correct. Even though it took some time for me to finish speaking because of my poor conversation, he patiently waited for me to finish my speech which is correspond to the enough **quality of effective teaching**. As I mentioned earlier, it took a long time for me to speak a sentence in English. The reason why I hesitated to speak in English was due to the **Monitor Hypothesis which is supported by Stephen Krashen.** I had censored myself speaking English because I was sensitive to being wrong and unsure of being inaccurate. However, my teacher encouraged me, saying that it is not shameful to be wrong.

When entering the classroom, the impressive thing was desk management of the classroom. Unlike the arrangement of the desks in the Korean school which are arranged in a row, the desks were arranged in a horseshoe shape. After taking the first week of TESOL class, I was able to distinguish these two environments into **Traditional and Modern teaching**. My later classroom environment was quite different from the former. My teacher told us to pair in groups and discuss the subject of the class, and based on that discussion, we drew brainstorming on a paper and posted picture on the wall behind the classroom and sometimes he showed us a movie related to the contents of the class which was the environment that can create good rapport with the teacher and even to the students simultaneously and moreover, it creates **classroom dynamic** either. It also helps me drive my **Multiple Intelligence which are Visual, Verbal, and Interpersonal intelligence**. For these reasons, I can distinguish my English teacher as an **Involver** teacher. Under his teachings, I became more confident in speaking English than before and had no hesitation in talking to foreign friends. Since unlike when I studied something in English, I reduced my habit of monitoring myself when I communicated with someone in English, I think I have some characteristics of **Data-Gatherer**.

Not long after returning to Korea after 6 years of studying abroad, I thought I missed many things I could experience and learn in Singapore because of my passive personality and I even thought that there would be little gap between students who ‘studied’ English in Korea. However, when I came back to Korea, the difference between me and my Korean friends was that they were ‘memorizing’ English while I was ‘accepting’ English. I do not have to study listening and speaking like Korean students because my life in Singapore was an opportunity for me to naturally accept English.

Without experience in Singapore and the help of the teacher I met there, I would have ‘studied’ English not ‘acquired’ English. Also, as most Korean students feel now, studying English must have been stressful. After I wrote this essay, I felt that it was important to pay attention to each student, provide them with the right type pf classes, and help them boost their potential abilities rather than giving them many knowledges.