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

When people learn L2 or second language, they often do learn by ‘study’ way and ‘acquisition’way, and I will discuss about ‘acquisition’ way. To give a brief idea about what is ‘**Second Language Acquisition**’, it basically means that you will acquire a second language nearly the same way that you got your first language. Based on the topic, I will share my experience of English as a second language acquisition. The way I learned English was clearly by acquisition way, and it was successful.

Learning L2 by acquisition is tough to be done in the beginning. It’s slow and difficult. However, when you successfully overcome the laborious moment, the speed of learning will absolutely get faster. Straight to the point, this was definitely my case. I went to school in the Philippines without learning English at all. My **language proficiency** for English was at the beginner level. It was really arduous to understand what they were saying. For the whole first year, I just barely understood, but was not able to communicate well. My English teacher wasn’t willing to support me learning English. She had a **traditional teaching** style. Among the **three learner modes**, I’m most likely a kinesthetic learner, and when it comes to learning English by that time, I wanted to learn an actual **language skills and systems** that can help me to have a conversation with someone. However, my English teacher just let all of us to copy whatever on the board. Based on the way how she taught us, I can say that she didn’t consider the **individual learner differences** to teach us.

However, when it was my second year of going to school in the Philippines, I actually started understanding what they were saying and also was able to answer them. There was a sort of discourse and sentences with grammar. My English seemed improving and I made up my mind that I should maximize learning through acquisition even though I wasn’t aware that I was acquiring English. I made many friends who are fluent in English. Most of the time, I asked my friends out to hang out with me. We played basketball, video games, and other activities. The Philippines has many languages that are being spoken. Generally, they learn ‘Tagalog’ first, and then English. Surprisingly, most of them who can speak English in the Philippines acquired English. I’m not sure about other subjects, but when it comes to learning English when they were young, the teachers make them as **data gatherers**. There are many ‘enablers’ among the teachers who teach English to the kids. They let them have their conversation and see how they build up their L2, and it really motivated me to become one of them.

It was my third year in the Philippines, I moved to the new school. New environment, new friends and teachers. Furthermore, this was the time that my L2 acquisition showed its best efficiency. The first thing that I liked was most of the teachers preferred **modern teaching** style. They really knew how to teach students, especially my English teacher. She really enjoyed analyzing different types of students based on **multiple intelligence theory**. She let us listen to the English song and discuss about it. She enabled us, and at the same time, she let us use our auditory learner mode. She enabled us to do many kinesthetic activities, which means that she knew how the learner retention rates work. Most likely, we really enjoyed attending her class, so did she. In one word, we had a good ‘**rapport**’ between each other. Modern classroom, enthusiastic teacher and good rapport basically let me acquire English much easier and faster. I was so glad to learn from her. If I didn’t have her as my English teacher, I wouldn’t be fluent in English until now.

These were my experiences on how I became an English speaker by acquisition way. This essay is not to compare the differences between the two ways of learning English, but it is to let the learners to determine whether they are learning English by acquisition or studying way, that is eligible for them. Students have different types of learner mode and multiple intelligence. Meaning to say, some students might prefer the ‘study way’ to learn L2. Therefore, it is really paramount to know what kind of student you are, so you can maximize your skills and ability to learn L2 successfully.