My experience of L2 Acquisition - a Success or Failure?

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Since I would like to be a sincere teacher, I would like to share about how I learned English before. If I talk about my experiences, I have to begin from my Elementary school. But before going to my young lady story, let me talk about the two ways of learning English. There are an acquisition way and a study way. **L2 Acquisition** means a way of learning a second language after your first language has been learned. It is similar to the way people learn their first language. In this essay, I will discuss my experiences how I could succeed in learning English by acquiring. I could acquire English from my university time in Philippines.

Firstly, I would like to start my story from my Teenager time period. I learned few English songs and some basic dialogues from my Elementary school. However, I had no chance to meet foreigners in my Elementary school period. After entering Middle school, I met some Foreign backpackers on my way to church on Sunday morning. One of them asked me how to go to Seoul from Incheon. I was very excited to see Foreigners and glad to help them but what I knew was just few English vocabularies. The Foreign man said “~~~~~~~ Seoul?” and I could guess that they were looking for a way to go to Seoul. Even though my English level was a **Beginner** level, I could answer his question and he was very happy for it. At that time, I realized English is fun to learn. After then, since I am very **Musical/Rhythmic** based on the **Multiple Intelligence Theory**, I learned English by joining a Pop-Song Contest in my Middle school. Even though I did not know what the song meant but still could learn the **Phonology Language System**. I really enjoyed meeting Foreigners and speaking in English in my Teenager time period. So when I met Foreigners, I kept approaching to them and tried to talk to them. I think my **Interpersonal Intelligence** helped me a lot to improve my English.

At the age of 20, I flew to Philippines to study Nursing. I started my university in Philippines, I realized that I am a **Kinesthetic learner** among the **Three Learner Modes.** In my first year of Nursing, I took a Nursing Health Assessment class and most of the time, the professor showed us how to assess a patient in many different ways and after his/her demonstration, the students take turns to do the actual assessment towards to the mannequin. When the students assess the mannequin patient, we had to say the process verbally at the same time so that the professor notices that we fully understand or not. And through this class, I could fully understand the subject and my **Language skills** have been developed a lot specially **Listening** and **Speaking skills.** Not only because I took, but also I’ve exposed to the **Modern Classroom** where I can always communicate in English in my entire Nursing life.

After coming back to Korea, I became an English teacher in Incheon English Village. Since it was a big school, there were 25 Foreign teachers from different countries. I used to hear Filipino English accent so I had a hard time understanding my colleagues who were from U.S and U.K. and I was worried that if they don’t get what I am saying since I got some accent. But after working with them and being a friend with them, I’ve realized that all the worries were meaningless and not necessary. I learned a lot through natural communication which is based on **The Acquisition / Learning(studying) Hypothesis.**

In summary, I believe my **L2 Acquisition** was a success. I could have failed acquiring English if I did not decide to go to Philippines for my study. I am really appreciated that I could learn English in acquiring way and also I could find out that I really love teaching English. According to the **Assessing Language Proficiency**, my English level is still remaining in **High Intermediate**. So to be a better teacher, I will try to increase my English level so that I can present the best class to my future students. And also as a good teacher, I should keep the **Individual Learner Differences** in my mind to motivate many different types of students in a best way.

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