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

Some say you can learn a second language through acquisition. In other words, you can acquire or gain a second language. It is true you can be taught a second language by acquiring it, but was that true for me? No, my experience was sadly a failure and I will be reflecting on my experience of learning Korean with my tutor about a year ago in this essay.

When I began to study Korean with my tutor, the **rapport** during the class was okay at first. She gave me good eye contact and was very slow and easy for me to understand. She was smiling all the time which made me feel relaxed. However, after a couple of lessons, she became distant and stopped using my name and it became just a routine for her and not genuine. She did not pay attention to the fact that I was having a hard time remembering things. She would always tell me it is because I did not study hard enough. But in reality, it is because I have always struggled with short term memory loss. She never asked questions to find out my **Individual Learner Differences.**

As an adult I wanted my lessons to be goal-oriented and practical just as **Malcolm Knowles** brings out about the characteristics of adult learners. My tutor never set any goals with me, instead she tried to get through the book as fast as she could. She started teaching the wrong things and focused more on Korean holidays and traditions rather than the language, which was not practical for me. At the time I believed I was doing something wrong and that is why I was not learning. But looking back, I believe she could have helped me if she figured out what my **multiple intelligence** was. I have always thought the best way for me to learn was through visual. However, I found out not only do I learn visually but also musically.

Although my tutor did try teaching with the **Language Skills and Systems**, she did not teach with all systems like function and discourse. However, the one that stands out to me the most that she did not teach was phonology. I felt that she really did not listen to me while I was talking which led me to the wrong pronunciation of many words. I also learned there are two types of teaching, **Traditional vs. Modern teaching**. Her teaching was very traditional, all about the textbook and talked a lot. With that being said, she was an explainer teacher. when I was quiet, she though it was because I did not know what to say, so she was always explaining. She never came prepared for the lesson and even forgot what the homework was that she gave me.

Because of her teaching style she focused on reading and writing for most of the lesson while explaining everything in Korean, then expected to have a discussion in Korean. As we can see from the **Learner Retention Rates,** the way I was taught made it very hard for me to learn. She did not have **Effective Teaching** qualities. There was no empathy, authenticity and definitely no respect. For example, I felt at times she viewed herself more as my mother than my tutor. She was older than me so she would come to my home and tell me how I should clean my house or what I must do culturally since I live in Korea. I became so stressed out from her classes and it caused me to lose my joy and motivation. She never encouraged me, so my self-esteem became very low. Because of this, I felt that I was learning something but when I was asked what I learned, I could never remember. We know that through **Second Language Acquisition** the teacher should keep the anxiety low and make sure the student has high self-esteem and motivation. Otherwise, the affective filter will appear and the student will not be able to acquire the language.

From my experience we can see that I did not acquire my second language. However, I believe I can learn from my experience to become a better English teacher for others in the future. I have learned that the rapport between me and the student is very important from the beginning to the end.