**TESOL**

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**Essay**

**My L2 Acquisition Experience**

**- In My University years -**

**Words : 765**

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**My Second Language Acquisition Experience**

**In my university years**

**Introduction**

Learning English in an EFL situation was like going uphill for me as well in the same way that many Koreans grumble on about the difficulties in learning English. Though this essay, I would like to share my English learning experiences as an adult learner.

**Body**

**1. Traditional-modern classrooms**

**Although I majored in English language and literature in my university, I was not confident in speaking English.** There are two reasons I would like to blame for my poor speaking at the time. First, the year I became a university student was the time when Korea co-hosted the 2002 World Cup with Japan. Since the event was so significant that I couldn't care about studying English. Instead, I was enthusiastic in rooting for Korean soccer players. It might be an obvious excuse for not studying hard at that time of the year. Second, I did not have dynamic English classes based on Communicative Language Teaching methodology in my middle and high school years. For this reason, I came across English only in a text book usually for reading and grammar, to say nothing of my skills in speaking, listening and writing. During my high school years, I had to focus on studying English for the college entrance exam.

**2. Adult learner characteristic**

Nobody can deny the status of English as a tool for international communication. **There was an episode for me as an adult learner to study English arduously especially for speaking.** One day, a foreigner asked me how to buy a ticket with another ticket already in his hand at the subway station. Actually he wanted to go a place located in the 2 section but he purchased a ticket for the 1 section from the machine. At the time it was difficult for me to explain how to buy the ticket depending on a section. Thus, I bought a right ticket for him without explanation and gave it to him. Then, he asked me when he should use the ticket which he already bought. What I could mention was "next time". Although I had smile on my face for the foreigner, I was really frustrated because I couldn't come up with any words on my mind. It is an abashing memory but the experience gave me a strong motivation for speaking English.

**3. Learning styles/intelligences**

**Getting to know my learning styles or intelligences leads me to be successful in learning English without studying overseas.** I found myself enjoying English learning through listening to radio programs (audial intelligence) and taking an English conversation class at an institute (interpersonal intelligence). Specifically, I've been tuned in to various English radio programs such as “English Speaking Master” to speak fluently, “Power English” to be accustomed to the hosts’ pronunciation, and “Morning Special” to keep track of daily news. Moreover, I used to take an English conversation class at a language institute. I enjoyed interacting with a wide range of people with different careers. Among them there were a doctor, a businessman, a hotelier, and a public school teacher let alone university students. While conversing with them, I could expend my perspective from their thoughts and share experiences together. As time went by, I realized that my English speaking was getting better.

**4. Teacher types**

I have been influenced by many people around me when it comes to learning English, but **the person who meant the most was my English teacher, Suzana.** First of all, she has a bright and positive personality. In particular, she always smiled whenever she entered the classroom and made everyone become encouraged and feel comfortable in her class. Additionally, she loved teaching itself with enthusiasm. She made use of a variety of visual and audio materials to deliver the educational concept of the day as effectively as possible and introduced diverse activities such as role playing after watching some scenes of a movie, explaining unknown words even with motion, or drawing a creative semantic mapping. Aside from learning English, I had a chance to taste home-made pancake with maple syrup and got to know Canadian culture and lifestyle through her.

**Conclusion**

Come to think of it, I went through tough years at the beginning of learning English due to traditional way of teaching English in Korea in the past but English comes natural to me in that I as an adult learner have a goal to learn English, I know my learning styles well, and I can have more opportunities to take intriguing English classes with qualified teachers. In conclusion, I would like to be a good English teacher in the foreseeable future on the ground of my second language learning experience and newly learned ways of teaching.