**Essay #1**

**My Second Language Acquisition Experience**

***Language is a process of free creation - Noam Chomsky***

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**Ⅰ. Introduction**

I have learned English since middle school. First time, learning English was interesting and I really felt like wearing a brand-new suit. However as time went by, English was uncomfortable and getting difficult for me. So I was getting lose my interest. But fortunately, when I was the last grade of my high school I met someone who was a very enthusiastic English teacher. His name was Jung-yeoul, Lee. The amusing thing is that “Jung-yeoul and Yeoul-jung” means enthusiasm.

**Ⅱ. Body**

In Korea, as everyone knows “the last grade of high school” is really tough and hard time. Students are always tired and feel bored in class. I had the same time. We were almost end of teens but not complete adults. So we did not have many life experiences and knowledge and were not autonomous and self-directed learners. We just had the same goal to get good scores in Korea SAT. It is really important but really boring goal. We had had such boring classes before then.

Imagine! The class of 3rd grade of high school. All students are sitting and sleeping, never do the activities, just teacher talks and sounds of turning over pages. It’s really common traditional classrooms. We did not know it was good or not. We took in the fact as a matter of course because we always had the same type of classes. But his class was little different. He tried to wake us up from boring classes.

First time everyone thought that he was weird and strange because we had to study hard as much as we could. Of course he did his job. He taught English and made us study but he also made us cheerful and got us have interest. I cannot be sure but I think he was between an involver and enabler. The sure thing is that he is not an explainer. He always prepared something good. For example, he got word game activities, some part of movies and songs and introducing good English programs. Especially I liked the song part. I ‘m not good at singing but I love songs. When I was a child, my dream was a singer. He tried to teach us songs as many as he could. I still remember some songs which I was taught at that time. Through the songs and movies, I could learn some English expressions, their culture and their thoughts. It was just more than studying English that I could learn from the books. I got interest again and admired foreign life. He made my view of the world broadened and that was quite enough to wake my interest.

I think “the best effective teaching” is not the always same. It is depends on who they are and where it is. There are lots of ways and situations. However this much is true. “Enthusiasm and knowledge about the subject matter well” is the most important things that I want to say. If they (teachers) have these two things, it is likely that the most of others (patience, well organizing, listening to their students…etc.) will be followed. As my teacher had these two things, he could make the class cheerful, interested and we could enjoy.

My teacher tried to get us expose English naturally. I think that this is important. It’s related in “Noam Chomsky’s Theory”. Of course there are some theories that are related. However his theory is based on LDA (Language Acquisition Device) that can learn like L1(mother tongue). This theory is important for ESL education. We learn our L1 naturally. It is close to acquisition than studying. So, if we follow the same procedure of mother tongue (Listening – Speaking – Reading – Writing) we can learn second language more easily. This is pretty contrast with other theories that talk about CDA (Cognitive Acquisition Device). But after almost 12~14 year-old, acquisition ability is getting decrease. So after that, we need learning (studying) ability. Therefore we might not say which theory is right or not. I just want to combine all theories if I need.

**Ⅲ. Conclusion**

The certain thing is that I want to teach English in the future more naturally. It could be “Studying” but I will try to make “Acquisition”. I could be an involver and sometimes could be an enabler like my teacher was. Learning language is not studying. I think it is life and culture. So I will get students have many various experiences. Just like habits and their daily life!!