**My Second Language Acquisition Experience**

70/ TESOL / Katie EunJeong Kim

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“Listening is, in fact, the key to great speaking”

Researched by Dr. S Ken

“Learning is life not just preparation for life“ by John Deway

Second Language Acquisition is learning a second language after a first language is already established. Many times this happens when we go abroad and when person who speak a native language goes to other language used school. Leaning a language is never easy because it requires a lot of time, efforts and opportunities to practice.

Many people Korea learn English as a second language in the school. My fist experience this was at Dongjin Middle School from 1993-1997. At that time I hated English class because I hated my English teacher. She was stubborn, arrogant and ignored students all the time. Mostly class was lecture based and she asked to us just memorized all of text on the book. Her activities were very teacher-centered and she didn’t balance or integrated the three teacher types: Explainer, Involver and Enabler. It was so boring so, I hated English as much as I hated the English teacher.

However, one year ago I went to SISA institution for Japanese because I want to speak fluently with my Japanese friends my previous Japanese teacher Tastuya was using both traditional and modern teaching style well. Mostly class was focused on students’ conversation with peers and a teacher but when we reach problems he explain the issues. His teaching style was well balanced. Furthermore, he tried to make comfortable, friendly environment to talk and respected all the students.

In this two situations show also how different to leaning between young and adult. When I go to SISA, I had personal goal to achieve and I wanted to go to lean for myself but English class was just mandatory. According to Malcolm Knowles adult leaner have certain five characteristics which is adult is intelligent, relevant, self-motivation, independent and need to be shown respect. They are willing to lean so they are easy to teach because of this.

According to Carl Rogers, Three core teacher characteristic help to create an effective learning environment. These are respect, empathy and authenticity. Among these, he described Authenticity is the most important value. However, I tend to disagree this because of my previous experience. Christine was name of my teacher when I went to University From 2005-2007 in Miami. She didn’t respect me because she was a racist. She hated Asian but, I think she tried to respect and understand me as a student. Anyway, she was good professor and I learned a lot. Then I would agree respect and empathy is important factor, however, Authenticity is separate matter.

 For this reason I think the characteristic of teachers and teaching style are important factors to student because something done by teacher affects students well. I think teacher is most important and challengeable job in the world.

In conclusion, the key rule and best way to learn English is exposing students accustomed environment by English and conversation which are based on listening, understanding and speaking. Leaning English is not a compulsory it is opportunity to make life is better and worthier. I want to be well balanced teacher both personality and profession. I don’t want to be stereotyped teacher. I believe that teacher has to be a patient, understandable, passionate and **true compassion for their students**. In the future I will run class in this way. I will teach a student how to catch a fish instead of not just giving a fish.