Title: My experience of learning English as a 2nd language

[Essey1\_Second Language Acquisition Assignment]

**72th Weekend**

**Cindy(Sang mi) Kim**

There is no doubt that English is one of the most dominant languages in the world. As the technology develops, the world is getting smaller thanks to the faster transportation, telecom, etc. Therefore, English is getting more important as a communication tool with the whole world.

That would be the reason that English was one of the most important subjects during my school days. Also, English fluency was essentially requested when I applied to the job I wanted. Therefore, it is required for me to find out more efficient and less stressful way to learn English.

In this essay, I will write about my experience of learning English as a second language from 14 to 23 of my age. It was the most desperate time for me to find the answer to the question which is “How can I learn English easier? “.

From 14 to 19 of my age, I was learning English at a traditional classroom most of the time. The main purpose of this class was to get a good score, rather than improving the communication ability. It was just like the class of mathematics or physics.

Most of the teachers were explainers. They gave a lecture to all 45~50 students to explain the grammar and the translation rules which had too many exceptions. Sometimes, I couldn’t help but laugh because one of my English teachers used to read the textbook with his strong Korean accent. It was hard to understand when he speaks in Korean, sometimes. The worst case happened when I was a senior in high school. Just before starting his first class, the teacher announced that nobody was allowed to ask a question to him. His lectures consisted of pointing to parts which were the most frequently shown on the test. I was even suspicious if his English is really ‘better’ than any of top level students in his class.

Some could say that this way is efficient to get a better score in a short time, but I was losing interest in English as a communication tool. Also,

When I became 20, I went to University. Even though I was not afraid to make mistakes thanks to my outgoing personality, Speaking English wasn’t that easy. It seems difficult because I had been ‘reading’ English texts rater than ‘speaking’ in English.

So, I went to a private school which was quite helpful. The teachers there were more like involvers than explainers. I was learning English at a kind of modern classroom during that time. They used various ways to teach English such as listening to the news and pop songs, playing role games, presenting certain topics for the discussion in pair/group, etc.

But still, there was a limit as far as what I could learn since it was a couple of hours a day only to speak English.

When I was 22, I decided to go to Sydney in Australia to attend an intensive English course for 1 year. During that time, I could really understand how useful English can be in real life by communicating with overseas students. They were doctors, CPAs, nurses, journalists, University students, etc. Based on the various backgrounds of careers, the class was getting more interesting with many topics to talk about.

The best teacher I met there was David. He was an involver and enabler. He was not only well prepared but also understood cultural and historical differences of overseas students. Also, he was trying to share those with all students so that we could learn many other things with each other. The best thing was that he always respected his students.

He used to say, “Don’t be afraid to make mistakes in English. You could not be fluent but it doesn’t mean you are not intelligent. Just say what you know and what you think.” I think this is very important to teach adult learners.

Learning something takes time and effort, so does learning languages. As a Korean, Leaning English as a second language could be even harder than learning other languages such as, Japanese and Chinese which have many things in common with Korean.

There will be many theories and ideas, and each learner could have one’s own way. In my case, I have been though many trials and errors to find my own learning way.

Based on those experiences, I can say that English teachers need to be involvers and help each of their students to find the most suitable method.

It is my initial stage of ‘learning teaching English’, so it is not easy that I am sure how to be a good teacher. But I know that I will not stop learning to find the best way of teaching English for my students.