Tesol 01 : Second Language Acquisition Assignment

Learning second language is difficult for any one even though the each load of the difficulty is not same. In case of mine, I still feel uncomfortable for learning second language. However, the emotion which I am feeling nowadays is surely different from what I felt when I started to learn second language English at the first. I encountered English when I was in middle school. English was just one of subjects which I had to study. I hardly ever thought why I had to study so I had studied it only for university entrance examination. I had not studied it during university life. I could not make even one sentence in English until I graduated from university. I can say that my first learning English was a failure. I know that the biggest portion of the failure is a lack of my efforts and I do not blame my English teachers. However, Now, I am going to find the other reasons why I failed learning second language at the first time.

Firstly, I could not find out ‘why’ for learning English. I think that I am involved in autonomous and self-directed characteristic among characteristics of adult learners. Motivation is very important for people who have the characteristic. I did not know why English is important for me till I work for my current company so I could not enjoy learning second language at that time. On the contrary, these days, I have clear grounds for learning English which are for communication with other colleagues from various countries and for business. These reasons made me learn English again and keep studying English in spite of some barriers.

Secondary, the environment was not good for learning language. When I was in middle school and high school, English teachers used to use only a cassette player as additional equipment. As I recall that time, all of students in the classroom listened to the tape which was simply recorded of the textbook contents and red it at the same time then students memorized whole of dialogue in the book. Teachers usually spent time to explain grammar. General students were getting to lose interesting of learning English at that time. Absolutely, there were some students who were good at English. However, I think that if we had studied English with using various activities, games, and video clips like these days, we could have met a lot more people fluent English speaking without studying in language institutes.

Lastly, teaching methods were neither elaborate nor appropriate to learning language to derive a good result. To add description of my teachers and their using methods, they tried to give knowledge about English with very simple implements such as memorizing vocabulary, and analyzing sentence with a view of grammar; these methods were one-way education. Nevertheless, I think that the efforts were not so effective because they had used to access to English as not a language but an academic part. Language is a very interactive field and it should be surely practical for learners. Learners should be able to listen, read, speak, and write with the language. That is the right “good result” and the final goal of learning language. Thus, teachers have to guide students to arrive at the goal, so that some characters are needed to teachers. Most of all, teachers should give clear and positive feedback with respect to students. Students become improve language ability by making errors. When they make a mistake, if teachers do not give clear feedback like what is incorrect and what needs to be changed, students would not expect improvement. Moreover, teachers need to be sensitive when they give feedback not to make students feel depressed and ignored because most of students are worried about making errors and the uncomfortable circumstance.

I suggested few reasons why I failed in my first learning second language English so far. These reasons become a lesson for me. If I help students to set up a specific reason why the students have to study the language and try to keep it in mind whenever they lose interesting, if I use various teaching ways and materials for effective and high acquisition of language, if I really listen to students with having respect and try to give clear and positive feedback to encourage students, I could be a good language guide and teacher.