Learning a second language

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If you are living a life in the 21th century you might have noticed that the world these days is so competitive that you should have already acknowledged or understand how important it is to learn a second language. Unlike the days from decades ago, in the present, transportation have developed so much that you can travel anywhere in the world within 48 hours which made an interchange between countries, businesses, or people much easier than the past. Therefore, an interest of learning a second language has been constantly increasing compare to our parent’s generation. For this reason, an institute, academy, or even a personal tutor is busy teaching their students effectively in a short time. However, not every student has same mode of learning or motive. In my case, the hypothesis of a second language acquisition, motivation, and teacher types influenced a lot in learning the second language.

First of all, the hypotheses of a second language acquisition are the acquisition vs. learning, natural order, monitor, input, and affective filter. Out of these, the natural order and the monitor hypothesis suit my experience. As a child in an elementary school I had a chance to live in a foreign country. Attending a school that teaches everything in English was the most hardest experience. However, learning a language skills such as writing, listening, speaking, and reading, did not took much time. Due to the fact that I was put into an environment even before I acquire perfect mother tongue language, I quickly and easily acquire the second language. Just as a baby learning he’s native language I first started out from the ESL class as a beginner than went up to a higher level classes. Learning the language skills was not challenging. Instead, a system of the language, especially a grammar, started to confuse me as I start to learn in a higher grade. All the word or phrase that I spoke was memorized naturally, therefore, it was difficult for me to understand why or how it functions seperately. For example, I did not know a meaning of rock and scissors when I first played rock-paper-scissors. It was just a game or a word called rock-paper-scissors to me. The more I learn a language systems, I doubted more on my language skill. Nothing seemed to be right because I do not fully understand the systems. I was unconsciously monitoring myself which made me less confident and shy which made my silent period. Thus, the hypothesis of the natural order and the monitor affected me in both in good and bad ways.

Second of all, an adult learners are both extrinsic and intrinsic motivated, whereas, Compare to the children doing what there parents ask them to do, the adults tend to do things to fulfill their needs. Some characteristic of the adult learners are autonomous, experienced, goal and relevancy oriented, and need to be respected. They understand the importance of a second language and learn to show their ability or to earn something they want. For instance, I am now learning a TESOL which is nothing relevant to my major but I am preparing myself for the future. If I were to stand in front of a recruiter with a guy who has a same score from an interview and a test that has to offer from the company, the recruitor should be concerned on who to employ. In this situation I would put up the TESOL certificate. There is more chance that the recruiter would offer me a job than the guy who has less to show. As a child with no outer life experience, I was forced by parents to learn a second language but as I grew up I become self motivated to make myself a better person.

Third of all, the teacher types are divded into three different categories which are explainer, involer, and Enabler. Looking back to my experience when I was a learner, I had been to various condition of environments. For instance, learning in a foreign country and in Korea was two totally different experiences for me. In a foreign country teachers were more of an involver and an enabler letting the whole class participate in a discussion all times. By understanding students modes of learning, teachers were using an effective materials and exercieses in each class to lower students’ boredom thresholds. There was no time to be tidious in the class but made my perspective of learning the second language change. Whereas, most of the Korean teachers were explainer. All they do was to write a formulas for a grammar and made students memorize it. No matter a level or a learner mode of the student they were viewed as a teacher who just care about their duty to teach, instead of having a purpose to help the students to learn. Learning from a teacher who is passionate, authentic, and knows how to respect student is the effective teacher.

In conclusion, there are no such criteria of being a successful or a failure in learning. Though, hypothesis of the natural order, motivation, and the effective teacher helped me learn a second language much easier. Learning the second language in a foreign country when I was a child was a big factor for me to be fluent at it. These days a large number of a native speaking instructer are in Korea which made it easy for students in Korea to learn their second language effectively without studying abroad. Finding a characteristic of themself is important so that they can put theirself in a right environment of learning. By discovering the characteristic of yourself can depend how fast and easy you can acquire a second language.