Second Language Acquisition Assignment

Was it a success or a failure as a language learning experience? Why?

80th WD TESOL

In Ok Kim(Debbie)

Did I succeed or fail as a language learning experience?

In Ok Kim(Debbie Kim) 80th WD TESOL

I can say that I’ve succeed now. However, learning it seemed like it was learning toward a failure when I was a teenager.

When I was a teenager, I didn’t realize why I had to study a foreign language so hard also I didn’t know that how much learning a second language was important and useful in an entire life. At that time, I couldn’t find any motivations or reasons. Because, we only focused on the scores to enter a good university. It made me so bored and gave me too much stress. Our teaching style in Korea is traditional. It is teacher centered boring lecture style, and focuses on grammar structure, and translation. This teaching style is the oldest method. It may give the students high TOEFL score, but it doesn’t mean that they can communicate with foreigners. In my opinion, this style makes students passive.

Nowadays we have changed teacher-student interacted style. This method is for L2, and it was developed for the student better communication. They work in groups, discussion, and activities with speaking and communication centered. This teaching style will give the students more fun and better achievement than traditional teaching. They will learn actual English to communicate. In my case, I improved my English speaking with this Direct method. When we learned grammar skills in the class, we had no chance to open the mouth, when the teacher taught us giving many questions, practice, repeat teacher's saying with little grammar rules, I could open my mouth and start to speak.

Now, I want to talk about the characteristics. One of my friends who came from America changed my perspective on learning foreign language. At that time, I recognized that English is not only a subject but also a communication method. I realized I could meet and talk with foreigners, get so many amazing different countries’ cultures, understand them. It was miracle.

I agree the theory of Malcome Knowles ,Characteristics of adult learner. According the theory, adult learners can learn it with their experiences and knowledge. I have some experiences to live difference places and countries. It was a very good time to my family members to understand new different cultures and education systems, especially learning new languages such as English and Chinese was really wonderful chance. Now I am volunteering for the female foreigners who are married Korean men from Philippines, Bangladesh, and Pakistan on Sundays. I lead a small group and we talk about their problems with Korean family, children and share some information which they need.

We learned about three types of teacher-Explainer, Involver, and Enabler. I think an Enabler is ideal but it is kind of hard teaching method in my country. I am sure that I am an Involver. The teacher can teach the student vocabularies with simple sentences, can make sentences a little grammar structures, let the students guess and build their own sentences with some pictures in order to make and develop their own sentences.

I was taught Grammar Translation Method by English teachers. I know it is also very important to improve my English skills. But, before I realize the advantage of it, I felt difficult with English because of the score. However, I could change my mind about the stress in English with new learning style. I want to tell my students in the future to enjoy learning English. I think it is one of the ways to approach the goal. When they have open mind, they can catch up the goal. I want to be a suitable teacher to the students. I want to teach the STUDENTS not a lesson plan. We need more interaction. We need to be shown respect. We have to serve students as equals in experience and knowledge. After this course, as a teacher, I will be a great teacher who give them encouragement. I will help them learn right way. That’s why I want to take this course.