**Effective ways of acquiring the target language**

**(Through my failure of learning French)**

Kate Pyo

I had learned French for 3 years as a required subject in high school. Nevertheless, I rarely remember the language and speak any of it neither. The French were difficult to Lexis and phonics for me and a teacher-centered class had just focused on passive language skills and grammar. While French class, I felt so bored and wished the class ending soon. There was not autonomous and self-directed motivation when learning French. I figure out why my experience learning French had failed and think about the ways to learn a target language effectively.

Learning French was just one of the compulsory courses to pass an exam which didn’t give me intrinsic motivation. If I were spontaneous and goal-oriented to learn French, I should have given more efforts and time to study. When learners reflect own interest and purposes, the learning process seems go easy to achieve. Lower anxiety and learning environment can’t enhance the level of language ability. If I have a friend from France and want to communicate with her, it will provide me a good motivation to learn French. Direct application, real communication needs could be relevant reasons why I need to learn the language. I would be goal oriented myself to study harder.

Acquiring a language should need to develop all sorts of language skill ability including authentic communication. My French teacher led a class solely, gave her lecture to students. She read a textbook and then we followed her to repeat. We learned French which focused on memorizing words, understanding grammar and sentence structure. These ways could not help us develop French acquisition naturally, as they were taught biased on reading comprehension and grammar drills in the textbook. Without speaking and writing exercise could not develop the balance of all language skills and systems. Teacher’s one of the major responsibilities would to enable learners speaking more fluently for real communication. Authentic uses of the language are what the learner really acquiring the language.

Mixing and using visual, auditory and tactile-kinesthetic various materials are useful for teaching learners. During my French class, I remembered a text book was only used as an aid. Also classic method ‘lecture’ teaching style would lower learners’ retention and anticipation to concentrate them on the class. Learners can be taught much effectively through group discussion, activities, live demonstration or mentoring other students. Therefore a teacher could understand and vary to make use of all possible activities for each intelligence type. Everyone has different multiple intelligences which affect learning process and ability. It helps to make a class environment more dynamic and cheerful and to encourage learners more comprehensive the language. I could have developed French ability in a different way, if there were activities like singing a chanson or watching French movies or communicative group activities. Utilizing visuals, objects, gesturing could have raised my attention to learn.

Learning the target language are needed learner’s efforts and time to attain. A learner who is goal-oriented and motivated could learn the language enthusiastically. The main goal would be to enable learners to communicate in the target language. I have failed to learn French as I didn’t have any intrinsic motivation. Passing an exam was a low extrinsic reason so I gave a bit of attention for studying. Speaking and writing French have never been taught, only focusing on grammar and reading comprehension lecture could not help me develop to all language skills. Even a beginner should be trained authentic language skills and system to apply the language in a real world. And insufficient and limited teaching-aid materials and activities could make a classroom atmosphere uncomfortable. To satisfy each learner with different multiple intelligence, utilizing all sorts of teaching materials will help them a lot to achieve the target language acquisition. Acquiring language is for communication and authentic uses in a real world.