My story of learning English

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**Introduction**

Am I a successful person or a failure as a student learning English? I have to say that I was successful. It is true that I could be better but I believe that no one can perfect as second language learner. Most aspects of English have gradually improved since I re-started learning English because of great rapport with native speakers including teachers and strong motivations. I will outline these two reasons that made me a successful learner in detail as well as personal experience of learning English in the past.

**Throughout my school years**

I had studied in traditional classroom where grammar-translations method was mostly used. Then, we had lots of tests regarding spelling or words rather than building productive skills. The teacher was strict and controlled the class most of the time. Also, for most of us, we have another teacher for our private lessons since our both parents and teachers really want us to enter the famous universities. All the materials focused on university entrance exams, called Su-neung. At that time, it was difficult for me to be interested in English subject as the systems only concentrated on the results rather than the processes.

**As a false-beginner**

I went to New Zealand in 2010 for the purpose of entering the university. I needed IELTS score required by the university so first entered a language school. In modern classroom in 2010 in New Zealand, The teachers did not really control the whole class. Communication between students seemed to have an important role in the class. The teachers were not only explainer. I could see there were lots of interactions between teachers and students and also among students there. All the teachers used various teaching methods with authentic materials. Although it was a bit difficult to be familiar with this new environment, thanks to my classmates and teachers, I could enjoy at school.

The atmosphere was completely different. For example, seemingly, the seating styles and materials were very new to me. Especially, I was impressed by a teacher. In the first session, she would like us to write about the reasons for learning English and anything about ourselves.. Now I guess she tried to be empathetic to the students’ situations as well as trying to assessing our English levels. Anyway, thanks to her care, I could follow the high level course. One more thing I am happy about is that I have found that I have verbal and logical intelligence as I was good at making jokes in English and prefer to think conceptually.

I worked at the airport. It was good chance to be familiar with various English

accents all over the world. There were many regular clients more than I thought so I became friends with some of them. It was helpful for improving my speaking and also good opportunities understand the cultural differences. My life experience and knowledge help me to be easily close to them.

**My motivations**

I had strong motivations in my mind. I think I had both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. The reason why I feel like this is that even though I did not re-start learning English because of money or a special advantage I will get, part of me had a clear goal, going to the university. While I was preparing 6.0 IELTS score, my English had dramatically improved. After I got good scores and I was told my university would give me a scholarship. I was proud of myself and felt a great sense of accomplishment. It also leaded me to being more interested in English. In other words, extrinsic motivation created another intrinsic motivation in my case.

**Conclusion**

Consequently, I am the kind of person who is hugely influenced by people around me and motivations. At this stage, I think I am lucky because I got to know my styles as an English learner. But knowing how to learn does not mean that I almost achieved something. I should remind myself that all language skills could be instantly forgettable so I need to sharpen my skills for my students in the future. Hopefully my personal experience is also helpful for them.