**Second Language Acquisition Assignment**

“Life is the best teacher as an enabler!” –by myself

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Learning languages has been always attractive to me. By the time I was 20, I also used to dream of becoming a multi-lingual person. Actually, it was English only that I had studied before I became 20. Ironically, however, I had no self-confidence about that language which I had learned for more than 10 years and among the four basic language skills―reading, writing, listening and speaking― especially the last one was a big problem to me. I don’t know why but I think I used to be a little nervous and have some kind of fear for making mistakes.

When I was a college student, I majored in Spanish and Spanish literature. From that moment, I’ve had two languages in my life and I realized clearly through my experiences that which of how to study was more effective for second language acquisition.

First, I want to explain the experience that I’ve learned English: Learning English was very like being in the traditional classrooms in some way. As I talked, I’ve learned English since very long before. When I was a child, I started to study with some grammar and vocabulary following the instruction and curriculum of my teacher. Sitting in the classroom like my colleagues, I was very passive and I had no inner motivation for learning. I only studied for the test presented by teacher. Now I think at that time the evaluation seemed as the purpose, not the measure for making the students understand and know better. Anyway, we all read and read repeatedly some paragraphs and then tried to translate. I loved the language but anyone didn’t help me realize that possibility, and know how to learn more passionately. There was only one-way teaching without any concern about the interests of the students.

On the other hand, I’ve learned Spanish with my own interest when I became an adult learner. I had an inner motivation and spontaneously I decided to choose that language as my major. Learning as an adult beginner in the university had many advantages and now I come to think of it, there was a wide variety of styles and methods to learn a language. Most of all, I think the experience in the native country was the best! I was an exchange student in Mexico for about 1 year and while living there, I was a very autonomous and goal-oriented person. I could learn the language through all of my life in Mexico, for example, while walking or taking a bus, eating or even sleeping and being in home or in school. In other words, LIFE ITSELF was learning and the best teacher! Even though I didn’t know well about any grammar or useful vocabulary, I didn’t care about that. Also I was not timid with speaking, but rather very passionate and enjoyable. I had to speak just for living. I needed the big bravery!

There may be some differences but now I understand the fact that experimental learning technique is very effective with about 80 percent of average retention rates for various teaching techniques. I think that life is the best teacher as an enabler! Life experience is very personal and has the moments like some group activities. People in one’s life are just like colleagues in the classrooms who learn one another giving and taking some effects and there occurs the interaction for learning.

With my experiences of second language acquisition, I can get some hints for teaching English in the future. Now I know how important experimental learning is. I would like to present to the students the opportunities of using the sensory functions like watching, listening, smelling, touching or feeling something for learning. In addition, I want to help the students use the productive skills like speaking and writing in a welcome atmosphere just like in our life. Finally, the most important thing that I think is this: helping the students have their own(inner) motivation and passion for learning language. To achieve this successfully, I will tell them, ‘Dream! Get your vision in your hand with your talent for language.’ Just like me.

Used 702 words.