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643 Words

**My success in learning English**

In today’s globalized world, students and adults are all expected to speak a second language in order to be able to communicate with different kinds of people. There are various ways to do this but in my case, I was very lucky that I succeed in acquiring English as my second language by being in slightly unusual background. I’m originally Korean but I was born and have lived in Indonesia for my entire school years. However, I have entered an international school where there were students from 27 nationalities. With only 20 students allowed in each class, it was a challenge for me to not fall behind their level. As a result of this special experience, I now believe that my three strongest motivations in succeeding in acquiring English were the teacher, class type and the class activities.

Firstly, I learnt that different types of teacher can alter sensory preferences of the students. In my case, my social studies teacher Mrs. Russell, was an involver type who were an expert on the subject matter and were very familiar with teaching methodology. She always brought up with interesting activities to improve students understanding. One example is asking students to make a timeline of a famous person in a poster and give presentation to the class. She then gives feedbacks and add points for more understanding. This will eventually narrow down the gap of learner differences in terms of visual, auditory and tactile/kinesthetic learning of students. Even though I enjoy active and less boring tactile/kinesthetic learning style, because of my teacher I started to believe that it is always good to enjoy all three different types of learning styles.

Secondly, I realized that the environment of the class can help students acquire English quicker. Our school classrooms were separated by subjects like universities. It takes time for students to move to every classes but the advantage were that each classroom were decorated with the theme of each subject. There were usually posters, real objects or brainstorming board. This definitely proves me that I love being in modern classrooms. Even the flow of the class is also classified as a modern style because it was always active with discussions and student’s opinion. With more student talking time, it also helped me to improve in all the language skills and systems together. Nonetheless, it is important that I should be the one who is willing to interact in class and with others.

Lastly, the activities given in class can lead to many multi intelligences. I personally believe that I was developed in interpersonal intelligence the most out of the other intelligences. This is because I did many activities that has to do with communicating with different types of people. For example, I was the president of student council in my high school. Although I was not a native speaker of English, this was possible because as mentioned in Stephen Krashen’s theory of ‘Acquisition vs. Learning hypothesis’, even though I don’t know about the language itself well, I learnt how to use the language in meaningful interactions. This was done with the effort of improving interpersonal skill in terms of understanding people’s feelings or intentions. I learnt from this that communication not always comes from brain but also from person’s emotions.

To sum up, I have pointed out my three motivations that were the teacher, class type and the activities in being able to succeed in acquiring English as my second language. People, environment and the activities are always important in every aspect of life. However, I believe that my own willing is always the most important factor. Even though I said I have succeeded in acquiring English, I will always try to remain and improve more in English so that I can pass down the inspiration I felt from my learning experiences to my students in the future.