My failure learning English

Hwajung Lee

(642)

I've gone through several failures so far but the worst thing of them has been what I've never succeeded in learning English. English and I, we first met eighteen years ago in the beginning of my middle school days. In other words, I've been learning English for eighteen years. It sounds like I’ve already become an English expert. Tragically, it’s ever happened only in my dream. Dividing some failure years into some periods, there should have been a few reasons why I’ve failed in each of the periods.

First six years, my middle and high school days, any teachers had not ever taught how to speak English at all. Now I belive they also might not know how. All classes only focused on listening and reading English. Teachers just let me listen some audio scripts and read sentences in the textbook repeatedly. So I followed the way only listening and reading what I learned during the day hundreds of times when I reviewed the lessons at home. It was very common tendency at that time because Korean SAT questions consisted of listening and reading. The test score judged wether I would be smart as much as afford to study in the university or not.

In addition, all teachers gave lectures to more than fifty students in the each class in 1990s. It’s even bigger class compared with thesedays. Teachers should move a certain of teaching amount within the limted class time according to the school curriculum the government required. So teachers adopted the one-sided lecture that must be time-effective and go well with big class and couldn’t help but use such a boring way considering those circumstances. Not only having no chance to ask questions but also had no idea about how I asked questions to teachers although I had a lot of doubts during the class.

Second eight years, it was repetation of same mistakes. I needed high TOEIC score to graduate the university and get a job. So I spended plenty of time and money to get higher score because most college students and job seekers believe the higher TOEIC score they get the better occupation they have. TOEIC test also required only listening and reading skills without any speaking skills. That’s why all TOEIC institutes just let students listen audio scrips repeatedly and give them some tricks in order to pick right answers as fast as they can in the limited test time. In fact, it’s too short to answer all questions. It was easy to make me hate English itself at that time I suppose it may have influenced learning preferences for a lot of students. Absoutely no one like the subject with learning so tediously. It feels like useless and boring thing.

Now, I’ve been looking forward to succeeding to learn English for four years. Four years ago, I’ve been in the Philippines for five months to learn Enlish for first three months and just stayed there for two months because I just like the people. I made about a hundred Filipino friends and we were in sync with each other. It was so amaizing to me. Since coming back to Korea, I’ve never stopped struggling to improve speaking skill so that I’ve wanted to keep our friendship and stay touch with them. It would be very easy for me to lose it because I’m absolutely a mathematic person if I did not make the best effort. It means the mathematical intelligence comprises a large propotion of my whole intelligences against the linguistic intelligence. However, I love to speak English and express things related to my routine in English language as well as like to have a conversation with my forign friends. Supported by my great experience abroad and motivation in accordance with it, I’m trying to resolve my anxiety and overcome the lack of linguistic intelligence.