My failure story in learning Japanese

#560

YEONJU JANG (장연주)

 As people can easily reach others who come from different countries now, using various languages is considered very useful and unique skill. So, most schools in Korea force students to learn not only English but additional languages. Think of my high school times, I had to learn Japanese and I studied it few years. I, however, cannot say that I know Japanese. Actually, I cannot speak or write Japanese at all. I think I could not acquire the language because of my little motivation for learning Japanese, kind of input that I received, and activities performed in the class.

 The first reason that I could not succeed in learning Japanese is lack of my motivation. When I started learning additional language, I had some options among different languages then I chose German first but there was not a teacher to teach it in my school. So I was placed in the Japanese class against my will. After few lessons, I thought learning Japanese is useless and boring. Without any motivation, I just sat in the class with other thoughts and I rarely concentrated the lessons and the teacher. I think because I did not have any goals or purpose for learning it, I was distracted from the classes and finally it affected my progress negatively.

 I think the kind of input I received can be the second reason for my failure. My teacher tried to give students visual input with animated films. I remember she showed students various and lots of Japanese cartoons. However, she never explained any words or expressions in the films so it was very hard to understand. I cannot think of at least one word or a sentence from the video except few scenes now. Even though I got a large amount of visualized input, I could not make it because it was not comprehensible. I think the teacher tried to make students involve the class but it was not a good idea to watch films without any explanations in terms of input.

 Lastly, some activities which are performed in the classes may affect my result in learning Japanese. The most of my class was composed of “listen and repeat” activities. My teacher played the sound track first. Then students listened to it and we had to repeat out loud. In contrast, she rarely prepared writing activities though I mostly memorize things by writing. I usually study by writing the ideas that I want to learn but the Japanese class was focused on the listening and speaking. So it was really hard to build Japanese words during the class.

 I think if I had learned German, I would have succeeded in learning additional language because I was really willing to learn the language. If the teacher had explained some words or expressions with the visual input, I would have received effective input that may work positively. If my teacher had brought writing activities to the class, I would have memorized Japanese vocabulary better. Learning occurs effectively depends on various conditions. I learn I cannot acquire language well by the ways what I did in learning Japanese. Someday, I will try to learn other language with high motivation, comprehensible input and writing activities then I would have a chance to write about my successful story in learning language.