***The recognized success factors from my second language acquisition experience.***

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What are the most important elements to learn a second language more effectively? As each person has different level of second language skills, characteristics, sort of multiple intelligence, and sensory preferences, there is no firmed answer or theory for it. However, I would like to mention to you three different kind of success factors in learning second language from my experience. I will relate all my success factors with my past experience when I was in the United States to learn English as an exchange student. For your reference, I would like to inform you that my English level was more like high-beginner before I went to the America. But, I think I got improved a lot after I came to the America with these success factors. I think the motivation, the type of teacher, and production skills are important factors in acquiring a second language.

First of all, the motivation would be the most important factor among these three factors since the strength of the motivation will decide everything associated with the learning process, such as how much I can bear any difficulties, how hard I work on it, and how seriously I approach the study. I think I was really highly motivated with both external and internal motivations. I was externally motivated by the university since they required me to get a high score in a language school as well as all classes I was taking. However, the internal motivation was more important for me at that time because I sincerely wanted to succeed. Fluently speaking English will be necessary for my dream. Also, my parents tried to fully support me although they had a tough time in their business. So, I couldn’t waste every single minute while I was in the United States.

Secondly, meeting a well-matching type of teacher is an undoubted fact when you learn a second language. I went to very organized language school in the University of Nebraska and met well-matching teachers who were more likely to be “The involver” in a class. I think this type of teacher could be perfectly matched with student having beginner level rather than “The explainer”. Conveying information to students is not enough, especially for the student learning second language. All my teachers tried to involve the students very actively and put a great deal of effort into having their students focused on learning appropriately.

Lastly, we need to more concentrate on the productive skills among four language skill, wiring, listening, reading, and speaking, although these four skills are extremely tangled. The Korean traditional language teaching has a tendency to focus on grammar and vocabulary, which makes students only successful in reading skills. However, the teaching approach of the language school in the US based mainly on speaking and writing so that I could learn English more effectively. Furthermore, all teachers encourage student to visit them even in the time after a class in order to have more casual talk. I think that this is the way I could acquire a second language more naturally.

Learning a second language is not easy for everyone, especially for the adult learners since all the matters related to their language system and skills are already very familiar with their mother tongue. However, if you can appropriately harmonize all these three success factors, you can still have a chance to learn a second language more effectively and quickly in the future.