**Second Language Acquisition**

90th WK\_Kang Jiwon (Jiwon)

As a society become more complicated and change more competitively most Koreans tend to spend lots of money and time learning a second language as a means of getting a good job or a desire of knowledge, which is one characteristic of adult learners. So, it is natural that many Koreans go overseas for better circumstances to improve their second language. Our government, as a way of preventing an outflow of money to other countries, invest lots of much money in public schools. However, it's not easy to prevent this without some teachers who works in schools do not change their traditional way the lectures are mostly about grammar and vocabulary. As a main beneficiary of our country's education system like I couldn't speak English naturally till I finished studying in Canada. So, in my situation before and after studying overseas it caused me to change the way of my second language acquisition. I will describe my experiences of English acquisition why I failed to improve my second language 10 years ago coming back from studying in Canada.

 10 years ago, when I went to Canada I had a lot of chance to meet and speak with foreigners who were from here and there, in my school, or downtown. But, I could not talk about any kinds of topics other than simple conversation. It made me reflect on my English skills and gave me the motivations which I have to study English especially speaking. I can tell now why I failed to speak simple English conversations in Canada.

 First, when I went to school 20 years ago all Korean student's learned their second language focusing on grammar and vocabularies. Whenever I had an English class I was afraid of vocabulary tests. A goal of typical Korean high school second language class was to prepare for passing the exams of entering the university. So, even though I had learned English for 10 years I couldn't speak English well when I had a chance to meet foreigners. As a result of this, I lost my interest in learning second language until I went to Canada.

 Second, the environment is one of the most important factors in learning. 20 years ago, because I lived in local area it was hard for me to have good circumstances to learn second language. It caused me to lack the motivation which learners have when they are motivated by needs, and interest, or a desire to learn.

 Third, to make a better learning circumstance, teacher types are important. When I was a student all my teachers were explainer types. They just explained the contents of textbooks and tried to make the students get good grades. It made me feel so bored and not interested. Because of the goal which the teacher had was to get a high scores in the tests if students did not have good scores in the tests they received punishments. So, the way of education that regiments students and punishments also took away my creativity which I could have given me the ability to apply and develop original ideas.

 After studying in Canada I tried to change my method of learning my second language. As I lived local area I tried to get more chances to meet foreigners who lived in my hometown. One of my foreign friends asked that travelling in the US where I always wanted to go. We traveled NY, LA and San Francisco. The trip totally got me interested in speaking English.

 In conclusion, traditional education method only focusing on grammar and vocabulary, and lack of the correct environment are the most important factors in learning, and the English teachers loved to teach students in a traditional ways take Korean students' motivation away which decreases their effort to communicate with foreigners. To make a better learning environment, learners have to chance to speak with foreigners and learn from teachers who have a lot of experience. As the teacher's style and role in class are also important if I get a TESOL certificate which I will have a better learning experience to explain to the students, I believe that it’ll help me to teach students more effectively and professionally.