**TIMES 91 Essay #1**

**Second Language Acquisition**

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**Date: 10th August 2013**

**Word Count: 679**

How can you define what does teacher do? We discussed about it in the middle of

class. There is no exact right answer. But I kept in mind from it. “Someone who help students

realize and reach their potential, so they need high energy.” As a English teacher at the moment,

I brought some memories when I have learned English. I have spent over 10 years studying

English. I am literally surrounded by an English assessment environment. The student usually

does not motivated. On the contrary, adults are independent and self-directed in by Malcolm

Knowles’ theory. I had several experiences of language learning such as English, Chinese, and

Spanish. Those languages are based on different environment that I have experienced.

The most challenging experience that my second language environment was

somewhat like a Communicative Language Teaching (CLT). There are two reasons to support

my opinion. To begin with, I have been in Australia for 7 months and I have studied at Monash

University. Participating EAP and IELTS program was an enjoyable as well as impressive

experience for me. Because I went to Australia, My heart was all aflutter in expectation of going

overseas to study English. However, it was difficult for me to get used to communicate with

people from different part of the world. During the class, we had an examination such as

speaking, listening, reading and writing every month. We could learn equivalent of the four basic

languages skills; Speaking, Writing, Listening, Reading. We also had to do a project in a group

and write an individual report. Doing the project in a group provided better chance to have

conversation among students in English. Students can practice speaking and listening and we

could be closer with the friends from other countries. Furthermore, we could also understand the

cultures, because we talked about not only doing project, but personal life. Students can teach

and learn from each other. In addition, they can become intimate with other students in a group

from working in a group. By discussing in a group, there were many advantages which improved

English. After a few months of hard work, I felt confident on English because I can even see my

progress in English, and now I can communicate with foreigners freely in English.

Looking back to my language learning experience, I am familiar with modern

classrooms rather than traditional classrooms. The methodology our teacher used was the

Communicative Language Teaching. Applying the theoretical perspective of the Communicative

Approach, Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) aims broadly to make communicative

competence the goal of language teaching[[1]](#footnote-1). In classroom, the teacher’s role was less dominant

and it is based on student-centered classrooms. Our teachers were an Involver. The teacher

facilitates the learners. We participating in variety of communicative activities such as

information gaps, short games, role-plays. In addition, we got an opportunity to practice

communicating in different social roles. During the activities he acts as a facilitator as well as

advisor, answering our questions and monitoring us. Generally speaking, the teaching

environment was inductive. We use the language rather than explicit rules in class. Overall, We d

do lots of drills as well as example exercises. So it brought us good results as well.

According to Krashen’s Hypotheses, language acquisition occurs when learners

receive messages that they can understand, a concept also known as comprehensible input.

Therefore, if the goal is to assist the language learner progress in their task, it is essential to

provide the student/learner with i+1. The ability to motivate students is crucial for language

learning because of its nature. From my experience the contents that I’m accustomed to

student-centered environment, it is important that learners are motivated.

To sum up, going through the vivid experience together broadens my perspective to

the world. It is also great for me to see the world in a different way from the way I used to, as my

self-confidence has built up from this experience. This is going to be a major turning point for

me.

1. *Larsen-Freeman and Anderson, 『Techniques & Principles in Language Teaching』, 115.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)