Second Language Acquisition Assignment

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In today’s modern world, more and more people want to learn a second language. Going abroad is easier and exchanging information between different countries happens every second.

In some countries, knowing another language is essential to apply for schools or specific job positions. There are not only intrinsic needs but extrinsic ones too. To fulfill those needs, I have studied a second language and have been exposed to other languages in different environments. Through my experiences, some environments have allowed me to learn English more successfully while others were less helpful.

I started to learn English from middle school. During middle school and high school, most of my English teachers were explainers. They explained grammar first and then translated the ideas into Korean. The classes were not entertaining for the most part. There were a few involver type teachers though. They wanted me to role play and have dialogue practices with other students. Sometimes, they taught popular American songs and then we sang together. During that time, I had fun and enjoyed the interactions with the students. I still remember some dialogue. Therefore, I could say the involvers lead the classes more efficiently than explainers. In the future, I went to Canada to learn more English. In Canada, there was a new type of teacher, called the enabler. The enabler gave me many projects, which allowed me to work by myself or with team members. I spent the semester being constantly busy. However, I learned a lot and my language skills improved drastically. I believe that if teachers give students more chances to be involved in their language classes, they will improve their language skills more quickly.

When I was a student in Canada, there were 10 to 12 students in my classroom, but when I was in High School, there were about 50 students in one class. In comparison between these two schools, I had more opportunities to speak out in English with 10 to 12 students and the students were closer to each other and to the teacher. Also, the studying atmosphere was smoother and more comfortable. The classroom had multi-media system too. The teachers easily managed the class time by using the system with getting the students’ attention. I am quite sure modern classroom styles are more efficacious.

I have met many English teachers. Most of the teachers from my past had a little amount of time to teach a lot of curriculum to the students. In the Korean education system, the curriculum is very intensive so the teachers do not have enough time to listen to the students’ opinions. Teachers do not have time to develop empathy during the class time. They commanded and ordered students to do their work, which did not allow them to express their opinions. They thought the student had to respect only the teacher. I believe that respect must be interactive between the teacher and the student in the classroom.

In conclusion, there are various second language acquisition ways. Some of those can be effective but some may not. To make more efficient teaching strategies, I believe that teachers should give students more chances to get involved in their class by speaking out and expressing their ideas. In addition, modern classroom styles, like smaller class sizes or using multi-media systems can get students attention more easily and students can concentrate during the class time better so the students’ skills can be improved more. The students will be able to acquire the great knowledge and skills of a second language, if the teacher can develop empathy and can respect the students in the classroom as well.