TESOL 97 Weekday class

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TESOL 01 : Second Language Acquisition Assignment

I have experience of language learning. There are many experiences that I studied second language such as studying in Korean school, International school, and English academy etc. Among my language learning experience, what I want to describe is my second language acquisition experience.

I learned second language through natural communication at an International school. According to Krashen’s Acquisition-Learning hypothesis, it was successful to study English in native-speaking environment because I became nature when I was in natural situation. When I study English at there, there was no one who speaks my first language. I had to speak everything in English. I kept practicing to speak and think everything that I want to say in English. So I learned through those practice and became natural to do it.

Until I became natural, there were too many things to overcome. As I preferred to perfection, I was really afraid to make some mistakes. When I said something, my Korean classmate corrected my grammar errors. As Krashen’s Monitor hypothesis says, correcting my errors in front of many people made me to slow down in learning and get depressed. When I felt diffident and afraid of making errors, one of my teachers told me “Don’t be afraid making mistakes, there is no one who cares about your grammar. Just talk what you want to say.” She thought fluency is much important than accuracy in learning second language. So she encouraged me to try speaking English. Because of her effort, I learned through many practice.

My class was modern classroom. When I have class, I usually communicated with my classmates and I had lots of times to talk and discuss about some class topics. Compared to Korean class, there were little students. And there were many kinds of teachers. Some teachers were involvers and enablers. They didn’t use chalk and talk method. They usually gave students some explanations but there were still pair works. They gave us many interesting activities and games. That made me to study and learn second language more easily. For example, when I was in history class, my teacher gave us a map to color some countries which were the Allies and to talk with my classmate about what the Allies did. I liked those activities because I became to be interested in history and easy to understand the contents of the class. Without those kinds of activities, I would not understand what teacher explained in English.

On the other hand, I had a teacher who is an explainer. She was my geographic teacher, I always read a text book and highlighted in geographic class. It was so boring and I didn’t really like the class. Moreover, I didn’t understand what the class was about. An explainer teacher makes students feel tired.

At my first year in the international school, I was in ESL class because I wasn’t enough to take the class that other students take. According to Krashen’s input hypothesis, learners should study in a group which level is plus one to learners’ level. If I was in same language class with other students took, I would be in panic and depressed so I didn’t make any efforts to learn language. Being in class which is my level plus one really helped me a lot to get more language ability.

Learning second language in natural environment was very successful for me to learn second language. Because the field was nature field which helped me to speak in only second language and there were some teachers who encouraged me to work with others well. Also there were some programs which were fit well to my level. I learned a lot and there were many great helps that made me get more comfortable with second language. I liked those things because those were so effective for me to study and learn second language. That’s why I think my second language acquisition was very satisfying and successful.