**TESOL Essay 01: Second Language Acquisition**

[98기/WK] 정미정(Angela)

Write 500-750 word essay describing a second language environment that you have experienced. Was it a success or a failure as a language learning experience? Why?

Relate your personal beliefs to concepts learned in the TESOL 01 module: characteristics of adult learners, traditional vs. modern classrooms, teacher types, and effective teaching.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It was in the middle school that I I started learning English as my second language. I learned English for 6 years by Grammar Transition Method(GTM) at school. I studied English for getting good scores to enter the university. The teacher also taught the students to make them get the good scores on the test. I memorized grammar and a lot of vocabularies to solve the reading problems on the test. It was not important to communicate in English, because I didn’t have the chance to meet foreigners. Nobody told me that I had to speak English. I only needed to learn skillful reading and perfect grammar of English. Listening was also not important at that time. All of the English teachers were explainers. I had to listen carefully what the teacher was saying. We didn’t do any games, role plays and conversation. The teacher read paragraph on the textbook and translated it. I wrote down the translation on the textbook. That’s all. Sometimes I fell asleep during the class.

When I got in the university, I needed to learn to speak English to get a good job that I want after graduation. I became an adult and had the characteristics of adult learners. I was autonomous, self-directed and goal oriented. I started listening drill by using cassette tapes at the library. I registered in the language institute which had native speaker teachers. The teacher taught me English by using target language. I think the method was Direct Method(DM). But It was not very effective to me. I knew a lot of vocabularies, but I still had a problem in listening and speaking. I was so nervous and shy during the class because I couldn’t understand the teacher’s instruction and make sentences instantly. As Krashen had said about affective hypothesis, I had obstacles including anxiety, stress and low self-confidence. I was so worried about making a mistake when I spoke. But the teacher didn’t try to solve the problems that some students including me had about listening and speaking. He didn’t try to ice break and make warm atmosphere. I studied in the language institute for a long time but I didn’t reach to the goal that I wanted to get.

Recently I found easier method to learn English. I got to know the method from internet lecture. I think it can be considered as Audio-Lingual Method(ALM). The teacher emphasized the extensive repetition. I practiced speaking English repeating after the teacher and mimicking on the internet lecture. When I practiced until I could speak the phrases habitually, I felt easier and more comfortable in speaking English. I also memorized as a unit of chunks rather than full sentences. I input English as the unit of chunks made of 3 to 5 words and uttered by combining chunks. It was hard to memorize full long sentences. But, it was easy to memorize short chunks. So, this method was the most effective method among the methods that I have experienced. In other words, The Audio-Lingual Method(ALM) combined to concept of CHUNK was the most effective method to learn a second language, English to me.