**Learning English as a Second Language**

Sanya Kim

People are exposed to languages in different periods of time. To be specific, substantial numbers of people learn English because it has become a global language. In my case, I was not forced to learn English but I had to learn it to communicate with the people where I lived. I went to America after two months I was born. Thus, I was really opened up to the language which was a different starting point with others who studied English in their native countries. However, learning a language, even your mother tongue is difficult in the beginning. To improve my English, I read many books as I could, especially books with pictures. I was also a big fan of Walt Disney, therefore I watched many movies and other animations in English. At school, every subject was taught in English and all my classmates were using the language, so I didn't have any choice but to learn it. A few years later, I came back to Korea. As a matter of fact, I was really good at English for a particular moment but it wasn't that long. In Korea learning grammar was more important than speaking. At first, I didn't assume grammar as an important element to learn English. Because I trusted my own sense of knowledge and solved the questions in grammar tests. To me, grammar was naturally learned without forcing every grammar usage into my brain. But all of a sudden I reached a certain level that I couldn’t solve grammar questions without studying and forcing it into my brain. That was when I was in high school and I managed to memorize all the new knowledge I had to. It helped me get good grades but after tests it didn’t last in my head. After graduating from college I realized I didn’t push myself hard enough to move up to a higher level. However, I dreamed myself as an English teacher who didn’t just emphasize to learn grammar in a boring way but in a different way to help students to improve. Because I learned English in a different way from others who just go to academies and learn to memorize so many things that you even can’t deal with. I thought Korean education had a big problem because I saw so many people who were good at grammar and reading, but when they faced a foreigner they couldn’t even speak out a sentence properly.

Why do we learn new languages? I thought this question over and over. Grammar and reading are important but why we are learning new languages is to communicate with others not just staring at books. Recently, I met a foreigner who spoke Korean very well and I was very shocked. He had learned the language in a very short time and said that he started to speak with others than learning grammar and reading. After practicing to speak with others and then absorbing grammar and reading was a lot easier to learn the language, he told me. After seeing it with my own eyes I made up my mind to teach English in the same way. I really want to inspire people and make them realize learning a new language is not all about memorizing as much as you can but it can be naturally learned in a fun way.

I have a small memory of my childhood learning English but I remember it was a good memory. Another important thing I became aware of was when you learn a second language there is no end to it. You have to use it as much as you can which is another reason I want to teach English. I wanted to have the chance to look back and absorb the skills that I was taught and I have the belief that this will be a turning point in my life. I picture myself as a good teacher admired by the students. I hope I can achieve my dream.