My Chinese Learning Experience

During my teenage years, I used to be absorbed in Chinese language since I loved to watch Chinese martial arts movie. I often used to watch those movies with my father. Everything in the movies looked so cool to me at that time. Their skills of martial arts, the way they dressed, their language, and even the background of films made my heart beat. So, I really wanted to be one of their characters in the movie. Then, first, I should be able to do martial arts and speak like them. Eventually, it led me to go martial arts academy and to study Chinese language so hard.

Learning second language is always not easy. When I was a teenager, there were not many academies for Chinese Language as now. There were many academies for English and Japanese but Chinese. Since there was no where I can learn near my house, I bought a book at a bookstore and taught myself. I began to memorize Chinese characters as much as I could. Since I was crazy about learning Chinese, all the characters looked like some kind of magic pictures to me. I never got tired of memorizing these characters. I wrote and wrote characters multiple times until I memorize the words perfectly. What I felt so hard in learning Chinese is every single character has its own meaning, so we need to know words as many as we can. Also, a shape of letters look very complicated. I think this is why there are so many people who are illiterate in China, and I heard Jackie Chan is one of them. Whenever I memorized the words, I wrote the words multiple times as I read along because I also had to memorize how to pronounce. After being taught myself for a year, I had chance to go academy to learn Chinese! The teacher showed us many video clips and wanted us to repeat some sentences in it. She made us to memorize sentences more than each character. I think it really helped me a lot. The contents of sentences helped me to remember the words more efficiently. The teacher also let us does a role play sometimes, and my Chinese speaking was improved a lot through this exercise. I think we tend to remember things which are fun more than things which are boring. At home, I repeated after the actors again and again. To watch movies help our listening along with speaking, I really recommend it. However, I felt this was not enough for me. I wanted to talk with native Chinese people, so I went to China town and talked to anybody at there. It just was so crazy. Actually, I can’t do this now, and probably it could be possible because I was a teenager. People enjoyed me, and they loved teach their language. They were curious about me, and we got closed. They were also the best Chinese teacher to me.

Language is not just a word for communicating; there are people’s cultures, history, and spirit in it. Therefore, it is important to know and experience their culture when we learn our second language, and I’m sure it will make you the best language learner.