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Language Acquisition Experience

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TESOL 106

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These days, many people try to learn second language for many purposes, such as communicate with foreign friends, understand other culture, or get a job. In fact, many people are living elsewhere in the world for pursues a better life. The borders between the countries are getting closer, so people are brought into contact and eventually they will communicate. Then they will learn a language other than their native language and experience a different education style. The teaching style will be different for each country. My language learning experience was successful in some ways, but in some ways was again unsuccessful because every teacher had their own teaching method, such as traditional teaching style and modern teaching style and I had my learning method which I learned through musically, visually, and emotionally.

My first experience of learning foreign language was English when I was 14 years old at the junior high school. It was challenging and demanding but then interesting. My English teacher was the enabler. My English teacher was native speaker, so at first, I was very scared and did not know how to speak English, but teacher started to introduce herself and let everyone in the group made talk. Then she started a game such as an icebreaker game to get to know each other. I guess teacher tried to make everyone feel relax so students could focus better at the class. In the class, students mostly read a book and talked about it. What I was most interested about this class was that every time teacher brought some pictures or tactile materials that were related to our topic. Every students were supposed to make a different story and play with the material that teacher provided to us. Though this group works, everyone participates well and gain some English skills, so it was a success class experience. Moreover, Krashen’s Reading Hypothesis shows that more people read in a SL they would gain better vocabulary. I think many classes should try to read more books together because students could help each other and gain knowledge of language in a good way.

Another teacher was an involver who taught Japanese. She was very organized and make sure every students understand the subject we have learned. This class was very interesting and made every single students to focus by doing an everyday journal with a little bit of Japanese so that she could monitor how the students understand, play games and acting with the class mates. She did CCQ and ICQ when we got into a new subject or worked with the group. This class was for beginner, so many students made mistakes. At that time, she was very patient and corrects an error. In addition, the phonological processes were a little bit hard because in Korea, we do not have some pronunciation that Japan has, but overall, it was a very successful class.

When I was 17 years old, I learned German. This class was total failure for me because I have not remembered anything even though I have learned that language for a year. This German class was very traditional classroom environment. Teacher was just brought her book and handouts. She started to explain grammar, vocabulary, and read a chapter. Then let students repeat the sentence and gave us the handouts she had prepared so that we could learn the form of new lexis and grammar. However, there was a problem which she did not explain the instruction clearly and she was not patient to the students. When the student asked a question, her attitude was not respectable and subconscious to the students, so this class, TTT was very high and STT was low, so students could not interact and enjoy the class.

Through many learning experiences, I have learned what kind of class could affect students in a good way. My second language classes were some success and failure because of teacher. I would not say traditional classroom environment is bad or explainer teacher type is bad because some students prefer that kind of teacher. My German learning experience was not success because teacher did not have three things that she should have which are empathy, authenticity, and respect. I realized my successful learning experience came from good rapport. Finally, teacher should balance out the good relationship between students, respect each other, and to listen what their students say so that teacher can lead their students in effective and fun way to learn a second language.