

The Success of My English Acquisition Experience

There are different ways to learn a second language that I have experienced while studying English. Some teachers used a traditional method named 'Grammar Translation' but this method did not work well for me. The method that caused the most interest and improved my English skill was the 'Total Physical Response Method'. In this essay I will describe my experience of successful second language acquisition in detail.

The first time I learned English was with an explainer teacher in a traditional classroom setting. It is hard to say whether it was a good way or bad way to learn. I can say is that I found the lesson was quite boring. The teacher only explained basic grammar and phonetic symbols, and the class did not work spoken communication. I had to memorize English words and lessons within a short time. The class was basic and monotonous. However, though I found the method boring, the experience was memorable and interesting as it was my first encounter with English. In addition, what I learned in this class became a good foundation of my English skill development.

My most successful second language acquisition experience was with the 'Total Physical Response' teaching style. I was beginner at that time, but the method was effective for my learning. First the teacher showed us action with the vocabulary or phrases we were studying. The teacher would show action and explain the activity, and then we would try copy the movement. Finally, my classmates and I tried the activity while teacher was watching us. I usually learned English by doing activities with teacher's demonstration. I believe that I am tactile-kinesthetic and visual learner, so this teaching method was greatly efficient for me. Also, teacher never spoke Korean, so I had to elicit target language. Sometimes, it was difficult and could not get it exactly, but overall I was pleased. The teacher always asked concept check questions in order to make sure student understand the activity. Unfortunately, most of the questions were closed-question because of our level, but we still learned from this. The classroom was set up in a 'U-shape' setting arrangement, and this helped me to interact with my classmates and teacher. I felt comfortable and became familiar learning environment.

I was satisfied with experience of English acquisition in Australia. I think that was the 'Communication Language Teaching' method and 'Task-based Approach' had good points. The tasks were usually not difficult and included a substructure of speaking with other students. Most of time teachers monitored us while we were practicing, gave us feedback collect errors after we finish practice. The class was that student talking time was a lot more than teacher talking time. My vocabulary has

increased while doing tasks and activities. The school where I studied was well equipped with new technology, and I could use quality equipment such as computer boards, audio books and so on. I enjoyed using these new materials in different way to study. I found my studying enjoyable and I participated well in class. Actually, I took a time to start speaking in English at the beginning. After few months at school, I could say my idea with short sentences. Over time, I became more comfortable with speaking English and made fewer and fewer mistakes. I gradually improved with this new style teaching skills.

In conclusion, I can say that my English acquisition experience was fun, useful and successful.