

My experience of second language acquisition

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In this globalized world, it is essential that students learn a second language. Parents want their children to know a second language from an early age. My second language acquisition has been partly success and partly failure. But I want to be positive person so I would like to express my success side of it. These are my opinions and examples based on my past experience.

My first experience of learning English was tutoring. When I was very young before I reached Elementary school, native teacher came to my house and taught English to my brother and Me. I can say he was the enabler teacher even my brother and I didn't know any of English. He encouraged us to speak and repeat aloud react enthusiastically during variety of fun games and giving positive feedbacks. I was tactile-kinesthetic learner so this lesson made me curious and like English first time. I expected his lesson without feeling uncomfortable about second language acquisition.

My second way of building English was talking over the phone every day when I was elementary school student. My mom let me to do "Yoon teacher program." Which was very famous and innovative English education system at that time. I chose the book and read stories with audio tape. Everyday same fixed time telephone rang, I answered the many questions about the story books. This curriculum was audio-lingual method, and it also helped to expand the scope of my thinking and imagination.

My third learning style of English was watching videos. I still remember the stories and how the characters look like. My mom bought "Apple poppy" video set. My brother and I

watched many times and mimic the cartoon character's voice and performance in the scene that we loved the most. Even my brother and I are adult now, we still remember the name of the character and say "Hi, papayaya,. "Hi, mangogogo" each other for fun.

All of the these three experiences are gained when I was very young and still have optimistic perspective of my past experiences.

My last memorable English acquisition was taking IELTS course in England when I was 24, just after graduated university. At first,I took general ESL course for 5months and challenge IELTS course afterward. The hardest part was writing. It needed well-organized and support examples and knowledge. I didn't have enough knowledge of social issue or economical sense. When I fell into despair, my teacher gave me a guide line and he kept asking questions about essay topic. Sometime I said things away from the point, but he respected my opinions and presented a variety of views. Finally he led me to find the importance of the content by my self. It was communicative language teaching(CLT), I still contact with him, I can't express how grateful I am for his help.

In addition, there is one more person who has influenced to me to improve my speaking. Her name is Angela Sofia ,from Columbia. We lived in same flat and went to same school but different class. Her English level was advanced, I was almost beginner. Even we had significantly different English level, we used to go travelling together on the weekend and holidays. She wrote me an email and handwriting cards often. The most useful and practical ways of learning English was talking. We shared with our feelings and problems like family. We listened to each other wholeheartedly and sympathize with what we were going through. We practiced speaking test each other regardless of place and time. We both was a

teacher and a student. She corrected my Grammar and Lexis but I didn't feel embarrassed.

I learned variety of vocabularies and useful expressions from her and I finally realized my Speaking area had been widen.

In conclusion, learning language is lifelong education. We have been built English for a long Time, so we keep up using English in order to prevent forgetting. The most important thing is confident. We should take the opportunities to express. Especially when we say something in English Koreans are too shy about making mistakes. All our failures are part of what we are, we can learn and grow from them. Don't hesitate to express!