

My Unsuccessful Second Language Acquisition's Experience

There are various learners of cognitive styles in a foreign language but learners cannot choose a teacher who fits their style into the regular school curriculum.

This is especially a problem as teachers usually focus on one of the teaching devices. My English teacher who had taught me for 3 years in middle school did the same and it confused me a lot in acquiring the foreign language. Also, I could not take a deep interest in English for a long time to come.

So I would like to describe how I studied from my English teacher.

When I entered middle school, I learned English for the first time and I went to school in country regions at that time. My English teacher was an Explainer Type. Focusing on the teacher in class always progressed with a quiet atmosphere in the traditional classroom and he emphasized that grammar was not important. So he did not explain it to us but made us listen to a CD for 10 minutes and read our textbook for 15 minutes. Then we had to write down the body of the book on our note three or five times until class was over without any explanation and activities. I attended the class with a passive attitude and the main purpose of learning of English was to get a good grade through memorization.

Unfortunately, I had been taught by him in the same way for 3 years.

After graduating from middle school, the English lesson in high school was much better than before because my new teacher was an Involver Type. She helped me become more active in various ways. For instance, we sang a pop song once a week, made a poem and watched animation movies together. But it was a very short time because of CSAT (College Scholastic Ability Test). The class focused on learning by rote again like a GTM and ALM (Grammar Translation Method and Audio-Lingual Method).

I did not acknowledge why I should acquire English as a second language at that time so I had a weak will to learn and lost interest in it until I graduated from university.

By the way, I went to Australia alone after graduating and the trip totally changed the way I looked at life. I was discovering myself by communicating with foreign friends that I met there and by hanging out with them, I could gain more confidence and I thought about why I should acquire second language for the first time. It really motivated me. As soon as I came back, I decided to study English but I did not know how to study it. And I also did not want to follow the way I learned in my school days.

Fortunately, my learning style was Verbal and Logical so I brought a variety of English books from easy to difficult level and organized concepts step by step. Also I acquired conversational method from the media.

And I met a new foreign teacher when I was in Fiji last year. He preferred CLT (Communicative Language Teaching) to other methods and gave me a lot of chance to ask any questions at the end.

Moreover we could go on a field trip every Friday and we often wrote essays. I was especially really satisfied with his essay feedback. The more information we shared, the closer we were to each other. Thanks to him, I could learn English within an informal grammar and get out of the negative thoughts that I had received from wrong acquisition experiences.

As a result, my first foreign language acquisition's experiences were not successful because of my English teacher focusing on one side and a mechanical memory system. And my English learning achievement had been low due to the lack of motivation but I could learn about learning methods that fit me through experiences. It restored my self-confidence. I could also figure out what was wrong with my teacher's instruction manual through this training course and recognized the fact that he neglected a lot of things in his classroom.

Although I repeated a mistake in the initial stages, I hope to find a successful learning method by narrowing the gap between my past and present experience through this course.