

My Experience of second language acquisition

It has been almost 10 years since I teaching English and I have been learning it over 20 years. But I am faced all the time with shortage of my English ability. I think most of the people who have a regular education system as a second language learner would feel like me. Why is that? Many educationalists and politicians say there are problems in Korean English education system and they change something every year. However, Most of the Korean students still have a hard time studying English and don't get effectiveness as much as their time or money they spend. And so did I.

During my entire school life, I have never studied English hard. At that time, Students studied English only for the test in school. If I got a good grade, people used to say that I was good at English. And somehow, I would always get a good grade on English test and this result made me think I was an English genius. It was the first huge mistake in my English acquisition.

But there was one thing that I liked to do. It was listening to pop songs. Since I was 12, I enjoyed it. Not just listening to music but writing down the lyrics and translating them. It was really fun to figure out what the lines mean. So I think I was a 70% of visual and 30% of auditory learner. I was already exposed to these interesting things before school English, so anything in the traditional class room like the teacher only explaining and no challenging works could not attract my interests.

A few years later, when I was a sophomore majoring English language and literature and hotel tourism management in University, I went to America to visit my aunt. While being there, I was really shocked and embarrassed. Because, before the visit, I finished the intensive speaking program in Korea and I thought my English skills were pretty good enough to have a conversation with foreigners. However, since I arrived in America, My lips

didn't move at all and couldn't understand what they said. Even I couldn't catch the word 'Mcdonald' spoken by my 4-year-old cousin.

After six months later, I came back to Korea. And I started studying English again as a false beginner. At the same period of time, I got a part time job in an English institute. Starting with this teaching career, my English skills have grown. To teach students, I had to study and know exactly what I teach. The more teaching careers I have had, the more fluency of English I have needed. These all repeated processes have made my English skills developed. And I have been doing this with joy.

The main reason I enrolled this TESOL program is because I want to be a better teacher. I think it is a worthwhile thing if I could give someone a good influence on his or her life, especially on their English skills. My second language acquisition seems like a failure, but I would like to say, "I'm still learning and will go on." Most of all, I hope my lovely students don't have a struggle with English like me. With pleasure, I will help them.

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