

My journey in learning English

This is the story about my experience of second language acquisition. Was it a failure, or success? I want to figure out the answer through thinking of bygone days and I also get bonus for better way to learn English from that.

This is my journey in learning English. It started with an English notebook from my cousin who I really liked and I treat such as an elder brother. Before I entered the middle school, he gave me an English notebook as a gift and he wrote down alphabet letters for me to introduce English very gently. It was the first time when I wrote alphabet and I felt it was really nice. His handwriting was very good, so I enjoyed copying that. That experience made me a favorable impression to learn English as a verbal linguistic learner.

Time flied and I met many English teachers but I can't forget him and my elder sister who saved me all through my journey in studying English in high school. My English was pretty good in my middle school. I was a captain of English class and I liked learning English even though teachers were traditional style like an explainer who centered and lectured to students. We had to read and read, write and write, listen and repeat automatically. There were no activities and no games but rote exercises. But fortunately, these audio-lingual methods did work for me as a verbal linguistic learner.

But it couldn't last forever in my school life. When I entered high school, it totally changed because it became more seriously and harder to learn English. The goal to learn English was in order to enter better university. So we had to get a good score, that means we had to study very hard especially grammar and translations. We took the tests a lot but we didn't get enough opportunities as multiple intelligences learner. There were no pictures, no flash cards, no media, no field trips, no songs, no cooking, and no sports in the classroom.

When I wandered from place to place at that time, my elder sister whose major is English and English literature started helping me to study English as a tutor. She had great talents to encourage student. She was not only teaching well, but also showing good attitude by being patient during the lesson. I'm kind of an intrapersonal person who thinks relationship with others is very important. I could notice that I improved effectively when I learned something to be with a good person.

I also remember my closest buddy who I've studied English together every day after school in high school. We were in the same position as a friend, so we could be a teacher and we could be a student. We had to solve the problem together and it was really helpful for us to learn English.

So I still prefer to learn English with buddies especially practicing to speak. I'm easily shy when I make a mistake during conversation but with buddies I can practice more comfortably.

And there is another way to learn English effectively for me as a visual, tactile-kinesthetic learner. Field trip was really fantastic. I've been to an international conference and international workshops several times. It made me so excited to communicate to others in English. I believe I can achieve my dream one day to be a translator and help others. Both Field trip and Keeping dreams are also good for learning English.

Nonetheless, I'm still struggling to learn English and I don't feel free to speak English in any situations. So I can't tell my experience was not failure or success in a word. But I can tell some experiences were more successful and some experiences were not effective for me.

Keeping a dream, memorizing repeatedly, going on field trips, practicing with buddies and having good relationship with teachers are the right way to learn English for me. So I'll keep going until I become a good English teacher and great translator.