My Experience of Second Language Acquisition

125th WD Jiyoung,Choi(Alice)

I have been studying English since I was 13 years old, which gives me a number of experience such as meeting lots of teachers. Among them I am going to write two teachers that I remembered with my personal experience of second language from childhood memories in this essay.

Firstly, It was winter when I was 13 years old. In Korea we started to learn English subject in junior high school for the first time. So my mother set up an English tutor for me who was my friend’s mother, Mrs.Song. She was famous for English tutor at that time. I was excited because it was very first time to learn any other second language in my life. She brought lots of materials to teach me each day.

For example, one day we learned about colors. She let me draw favourite things and colored them. From that we studied colors. Also she turned on radio then appeared a lot of animals’ voice and same time she showed me animal cards that I could pick right animals. We also had some physical activities about colors and animals. One made a sound of some animal in English, and the others tried to guess what animal it is. The class was by itself interesting because she used to various methods to lead me get interested in. The way in which she involved her classes were not bored and she tried to involve the students and finds interesting activities to do. Likewise, Mr Song made me to have interest in English and enjoy learning English.

Secondly, I am able to say when was the most difficult time in my life. I was senior of high school. That time is the hardest time to students in Korea to enter University. We need to study hard more than we used to do. There are four main biggest subjects in entering University test. Of course one of them is English. It might be main reason that second language teachers were explainer as I mentioned earlier. So my English subject teacher, Mr.Jung is pushing us harder and harder with too much grammar rules in reading. It is like I give him questions, I should write only correct answers what he wants. I understand that we need to reach high scores in a short time.  He often told us that is the way that we need to memory entire grammar because it is second language. I think he might be correct however there is other way to get grammars easily. For instance using media, I used to watch American TV shows such as Friends, the script is the perfect textbook for grammars, speaking and listening.

I have learned studied English grammar for my school days as above so it is very boring to me and I forgot lots of them. When I am reading english book, I am nervous initially, I have an obsession I should read quickly and careful so I can’t enjoy read it. The negative feeling which can create a barrier to acquisition.

I believe those two teachers that I met were trying hard to support students who learn second language with high responsibility. Mr.Kim is good explainer just giving information to students and Mrs.Jung is involver who using a variety of different activities to help students in the learning process.

“You cannot teach man anything you can only help hime find it within himself” Galileo Galilei quoted. There is an old west saying ‘you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink.’

I have really felt that this is so true. I want to be a good partner and involver with students like Mrs. Song. I think It is important to teaching students how to draw out knowledge within themselves, how to extract their strengths and use them so well.

Thus I’d like to find my effective teaching method and hope student learning through this class. I am not doubt this TESOL class will help me to lead to be a highly qualified English teacher.