**A Second Language**

**Environment**

TESOL CLASS #140WK

TEACHER: Dulles Schafer

Name: Woo Ri Kim (Kate)

I would like to tell you about my personal experience of second language acquisition. But it could be many other people’s story who have tried learning second language as well. I’ve been studying English as a second language since I was elementary school, it is such a long period. Honestly, I’m not academic person, so I used to be under lots of learning English-related stress. During the late 80’s and 90’s in Korea, most teaching type and methodology of teachers were one-sided and cramming education, most of teacher were ‘explainer’ who know their subject matter very well, but have limited knowledge of teaching methodology. I think because Korea was underdeveloped country in that period, so a socially accepted idea was success-oriented and education also was focus on result, speed and rating. Education didn’t care about differences of students or multiple intelligences. But I can’t stand this kind of education way, accordingly I couldn’t find any interesting of learning in my school day.

However, I met the turning point in my learning life. When I was 28years old, I went to Sydney for learning bakery & pastry. At that time, my English ability was super lower beginner. My English class level was ‘0’ which was the lowest in the school. Although I am outgoing and optimistic, I was afraid of English and thought I’d never get used to it. When I met my teacher ‘Sarah’, however, I could get my confidence back. Come to think of it, she was an ‘involver’ who was trying to involve the students actively and puts a great deal of effort into finding appropriate and interesting activities. There were many different students from various countries in the class and we were all adults, couldn’t speak English well. I’m sure she must be difficult to teach us. But she was a great teacher, so she not only totally understood multiple intelligences but also used VAK learning style. She made us feel comfortable and led us voluntary participation. From then on, I could have interest in learning English. Whereas most of teachers were ‘enabler’ when I was advanced level class. I and my classmates discussed various topics with teacher, we tried to find out the answer of solution together. Frankly I was not familiar with this kind of learning style, so sometimes I had difficulties. Eventually, though, I could achieve good result in a short time. I thought it was very efficient education course therefore I was very satisfied with it. On the other hand, if I meet teacher who is enabler at super lower beginner or opposite situation, could I enjoy learning English? Of course they were great teachers, but I couldn’t be into learning English in a short time.

To sum up, there are three important points of education and teaching in my experience. First, a teacher should recognize differences of each student and understand multiple intelligences. Secondly a teacher can adapt their teaching style which are explainer, involver, and enabler for student level to improve efficiency. Finally a teacher should utilize various methods such as visual, auditory and kinesthetic to encourage students. There are many teaching skills in the TESOL course. However if I learn these important things through TESOL course at least, I could be a good teacher and help my students to acquire English as a second language.

References:

Jim Scrivener (2010). Learning Teaching – The Essential Guide to English Language Teaching (3rd edition).