

My second language Acquisition

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My second language acquisition was considered successful as a result of acquiring english. I truly believe in the second language acquisition theory by Stephen Krashen. Because it happened to my life as good example of acquiring english and it becomes my real second language until now.

As we all are aware of korean education system from kindergarten to university, we all learned english one or two hours per week, that ended up lots of english learning through our school time, but not many of us are able to communicate with english speaker in a real situation. I have no doubt those school time learning helped to build some foundation in a certain way to acquire english as second language. But all those time language learning was mostly limited to traditional way of teaching and learning, Then why not many of us are able to communicate in english in a real situation? Here is my process of second language acquisition in english.

During university, I taught many student by private tutoring. Actual teaching content remained in my head for a long time, And then I started to have foreign friends to practice my speaking english. To improve my listening skill with foreign friend, I kept watching english speaking drama, movie until my head is not shaking any more for not understanding. To improve my writing skill, I start to keep diary in english once in a while. I did lots of efforts to improve my english level, but I was not quite there to be able to make fluent conversation with native english speaker after all these efforts I made.

I started to get frustrated and wonder why? And there comes my life change incident. I saw advertisement of airlines and applied to get interview to be flight attendant, I passed four test and became flight attendant with my english level in foreign airline, so needed to move to other country to live and it changed my english level from learning to acquiring. Through 7 weeks intensive training, we need to mingle with 13 different nationality colleagues to manage to communicate each other and help through all training together. It was not all smooth and easy but we made it through. At the end we became very good classmates with good friendship, we learned a lot from each other in a different culture. Now comes reality, need to work in the airplane as flight attendant. I had to deal with passengers' problem and complaint and communicate with colleagues efficiently without any wrong delivery message. To be able to do so, I need to be good listener, careful writer to note message right and good speaker to deliver it to colleague. And of course, I need to be good at reading at passengers' special request and message. So we constantly practiced all four language skills every flight. And basically I learned a lot from seniors and colleagues. Sometimes I have to be good at making conversation with passengers and colleagues for especially long haul flight. Luckily I am

good at making friend quickly and mingle with new people easily, so I had quite enjoyed my flight most of time to meet new colleagues and new passengers. I improve my english by practicing it in real situations. Whenever I use english in a real situation, that english become truly mine not from just copying of others and forgot afterwards. I had been working in airline industry for 11 years. And that working environment and 13 different nationality colleagues and friends helped my second language acquisition in an efficient way. And my abroad life gave me a big chance to speed up my acquisition of second language.

And even now after I came back to korea, which is not english speaking environment, Not to forget or loose my second language acquisition in english, I keep reading english book and try to choose interesting and fun book which I don't feel bored and protect giving up reading. Reading daily newspaper is very helpful for me to keep updated with what's going on this world and keep my english acquisition. And You will have something to talk about with people even with strangers to break ice. If you keep reading any book, one day even before you realize it you start to use whole sentence and paragraph to others naturally, You can even feel all that sentence comes from you not from book. What it means it became your language, That means you acquired second language in you. So please don't give up, It's difficult to start with, but getting easier and becomes your habit.

According to my personal experience, Second language acquisition happens in real life naturally. Even though You don't speak english fluently or not, whether you understand what news on tv said or not today, Second language acquisition keeps happening in you, It's just matter of time to show up, If you keep trying what are doing now and be passionate, open-minded to acquire english as second language, Your day will come to you. Let's hang on day of second language acquisition.

