**My experience of second language acquisition**

**141WD Yena Kang**

As a second language learner, merely memorizing words is not the most essential way of learning. As a learner myself, I have experienced that many factors such as **classroom dynamics**, **teacher type** and **three learner’s mode** contribute to the success and failure of acquisition in language learning. I strongly think that understanding the language not only comes from memorization but also comes from learning the language with adjusted **learning system and skills.** It is clearly proven in many ways that the language is adapted when learned with **learner’s retention.**

**Classroom dynamics, traditional vs. modern teaching and teacher type** is something to be considered when choosing the way of learning. I have succeeded in learning with **modern teaching style** with very down to earth **classroom dynamics**. My English teacher from my junior year in high school is a good example of this. The seating was round table with students facing each other and mostly teacher was always in the middle looking at each students. She always opened up our class with casual conversation with very light jokes to reduce the anxiety of students who are not comfortable with the discussion. As a student who speaks English as a second language, I always felt a little nervous about speaking in front of native speakers. Therefore, this method helped me a lot to reduce my anxiety which has tremendously increased my ability of speaking by feeling comfortable talking in front of other students. In class, we read “The Great Gatsby”. This book became my all time favorite book because the way I have digested the book was very effective because of my teacher’s **effective teaching**. Students took turns reading a book, had free discussion as a class and as a group. Our teacher was not just a **lecturer** but she was an **involver** and an **enabler** by always guiding students to be their own teachers. I can relate my English teacher into a method called **the learner’s retention** which is showing the average retention rate for various teaching techniques. It is shown that the most effective way is to be mentored by others and the least is to be lectured.

**Three learner’s mode** is also a very important factor when learning something new. The three modes can be divided in to three: **auditory, visual and tactile- kinesthetic**. The three learner’s mode is very important in adapting **second language acquisition.** According to **Three learner’s mode**, there is a theory called “**Multiple intelligence Theory**”. There are eight intelligences which is very similar to the Idea of **Three learner’s mode**. Knowing my all three learner’s mode was a big success for me because I could use my mode when it is the right time to adjust to different situation. In big lecture classes, I would record my professor rather than taking notes because I get distracted easily by taking notes such as considering spelling mistakes or getting carried away with other daydreaming thoughts. After class, I could take notes by listening to the recorded lecture. This can be categorized into “**verbal/linguistic intelligence**”. My visual learner’s mode helps me to memorize vocabulary which I work better with drawing pictures according to each word. This is also helpful when watching a video or lectures. I can capture the moment as a picture and memorize it. This can be categorized as “**Visual/ spatial intelligence**”. Lastly, **Tactile and Kinesthetic** also helps me to understand stories by acting out or making songs according to the book or a poem. This is also categorized into “**Musical Intelligence”, or “Bodily/ kinesthetic intelligence”.**

**Assessing student’s level** is a very simple way to make a good learning environment. Learning a language with similar level students boosts up the speed in learning with the use of **language system and skills.** There are five basic language systems: **knowing, phonology, lexis, grammar, function, and discourse**. I have experienced the failure in learning the language because I was put into a wrong level of students. Everyone had different level English such as **knowing**, and **phonology**. Despite of our different levels, we had to have a long discussion group which was a total failure because communications between students were nearly impossible with the use of **lexis**, and **grammar**. Also the **discourse** was not flexible between the students.

**Second language Acquisition** is a theory by Stephen krashen. According to Krashen, there is only one way in learning. Acquisition involves the subconscious acceptance of knowledge where information is stored in the brain through the use of communication just like the native speakers. I was a big success with this theory because I was exposed to English speaking environment but I don’t think this is very effective way for people who live in places where it is limited to the exposure of English speaking environment.

When learning a language, there are many things to be considerate. **Classroom dynamics**, and teacher types are the most basic things and learning my **three learner’s mode** is also a very effective way to learn. But the most importantly, knowing the right level can boost up the speed in learning. I have experienced the success and failures throughout these **second language acquisitions** and I strongly believe that learning comes from adapting the language in each one’s way.