My second language acquisition

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As you know, learning another language is not easy. Nevertheless, it is important that we try to learn English as a second language. It is not because we have an obligation, but because we want to communicate with other people from around the world and share ideas, norms, and dreams. My dream is similar, but contrasts with the dreams of others in some ways. In order to be a competent in my work, I have been learning English from elementary school to thirty. But it is still difficult to master the English language. Now, I would like to introduce my life experience acquiring a second language.

First, I began learning English from the age of 8. At that time, I used to learn English spelling and make my own songs using alphabet. Everything I learned about English was full of fun and joy. There was nothing but pleasure and happiness. But something changed when I reached 14 and entered middle school. I had to get the best grade in my English class, so I tried to memorize and recite many paragraphs. I disliked the way teachers taught. They wanted me to learn grammar in English. From the time I studied English in middle school, the subject I hated the most was English. As the time passed, I enjoyed English less and less. This continued through high school where my dislike increased. It was anything but my favorite subject until I went to Australia.

After completing my military service, I was once again confronted with learning English. My parents wanted me to learn English abroad, and I had a chance to go to Australia. Before going there, the English language was anything but the first thing on my mind. But the experience I had Australia, it changed my views of English forever. When I stepped into the land of Australia, I was confused about how to live or interact with people living there. Thankfully, I was able to stay with a Korean who was pastor and friend of my parents. While living in his house, I made a plan to learn English. Routinely, I woke up in the morning at 6, watched cartoons on TV, and I went out to talk about anything and everything with grandma, who was Australian. I enjoyed taking walks with her in the morning. After an hour-walk, I went to the beach, where there were many joggers, and I struggled to make with them to improve my English skills. I couldn’t speak English comfortably until three months passed. As my English skills were getting better, my interactions with others improved little by little. For about six months living in Australia, my life changed, and this created a turning point, which motivated me to study more long term.

When I came back from Australia, I tried to find out ways that I could use English and apply it to my life in Korea. Frist of all, I found a group that could speak English routinely with each other. Then I wrote the diary. Someone once said “Your diary can be your best friend”. I remembered this and made it my new friend. Lastly, I adapted my surroundings to consist of more English. Every day in the morning, I watched CCN and read books written in English and often read the newspaper in English as well. These have helped me learn English better. By watching TV, I could be a visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learner. I could see what they were trying to say, I became used to hearing their voices, and I could follow their movements and gestures.

I have still been studying English so far. The most important point about English is that I want it my second language as well as a tool for communication with others, which would enable me to live anywhere. Now, I am looking for the secrets of efficient learning. Maybe it is to relieve stress, exercise and get sleep to make my body ready to learn. By keeping these ways, it will be the most effective learner of English that I can be. So, If I learn English on a daily basis, I can learn more efficiently than I did in the past.

In the end, I believe that even complicated things in English that I thought I could never learn are actually not so hard if I have the right preparation and mindset.

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