**Second language Acquisition Assignment**

Sookhee Kim

146thWD sookhee

January 9, 2017

Throughout my life, I have spent almost 30 years in studying English since when I was in junior high school. Because I majored in English literature in university and I've been teaching high school students English at work so far. However, I'm still struggling with communicating with others in English. There are no significant results. I seriously feel that My English improvement is limited. Sincerely For me, English is not only the best language I have a good command of among other languages but also the demanding language which required and wasted my precious time, efforts and costs at any rate.

To be honest, in terms of communicating properly and precisely compared to the amount of time and enthusiasm I have poured, English acquisition as a second language is unsuccessful to me. But I know the answer. I can recognize some reasons why my ESL acquisition is unsuccessful.

First, Language should not be a studying but a daily life.

Since junior high school, I have studied English like other subjects at school, such as math, history. Many teachers focused on structure rather than communication.

So I am accustomed to studying English focused on vocabulary, grammar, translation. In the grammar-translate classroom, translation skill and rules of grammar is necessary to do some tasks teacher assigned to us or to get good grade. everything was teacher-centered in the classroom. they ordered us to read, translate some lines and find out the right grammatical answer. Unfortunately we were only listeners and teachers were a just explainer

As time goes by, after entering university, I experienced different classroom environment that students got much student talking time. The lecture was focused on practical tasks such as situation role play, discussion and communication in group or individually. It was communicative language teaching I mean. gradually I have a confidence in speaking English. and now I am quite good at English in general, especially reading and grammar.

However, There is a problem. When speaking a lengthy and logical English, I always face the limit. My brain is working busy in coming up korean sentences and translating them into English ones. I can insist that as a person who experienced both in modern and traditional way, those old-fashioned way of learning in school affects me in the long run.

Secondly, Second language acquisition of Adult learners cannot catch up with that of childhood.

children who learned ESL can learn English in the same way of their mother tongue. without learning grammar or rules of target language, They can unconsciously communicate. That means they acquire that language perfectly. But As an adult learner, The grammar which I learned in school takes a key role in only monitoring or correcting when I am about to utter wrong sentences. In other words, grammatical way in childhood couldn't lead to my English Fluency and also it couldn't be the same competence as the mother tongue which naturally flows out from my mouth. To be accurate, acquisition is unconscious, but learning is conscious.

Thirdly, The age is a crucial factor in learning language.

As a Adult Learner, my pronunciation cannot reach to a level of English native speaker. If I acquired English when I was in childhood by keep speaking, I'm certain that my pronunciation could be much closer to a native and I could perfectly communicate better even though I was not taught roles of grammar. besides, As an adult learner, there are some obstacles when we learn language. I have multi-level responsibilities that I cannot make room for enough learning although I have motivation and high expectations.

finally, the time that you are exposed to a target language everyday considerably affects your language learning.

The longer we are exposed to a target language, the better we can speak. To communicate fluently, above all, listening and speaking should be a top priority among other language skills in the same way we acquired our mother tongue. If we can listen, we can speak and then we can read and write in the end.

For me, Language is not learning, but a habit. as the old saying, 'A small leak will sink a great ship', our daily exposure to English eventually will be a daily life and finally belong to us in the near future.

Thanks for reading my essay.