146th WD TESOL Class

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Second Language Acquisition Assignment

When it comes to my experience of learning English as second language acquisition, I would say it was total failure for the first time but it was turned to be success in the end.

I started to study English when I was the 3rd grade elementary school student. It was the first time I met English, which is the mandatory subject in Korean education course as second language. I was studied English by using textbook and tape at elementary school. Specifically, the most use of tape was only about the chant for memorizing English words. At that time, I felt kind of obligation to study it without interest. Not only I didn’t understand what I should learn English for but also I didn’t know why I should study English so hard. All the teachers who taught me English emphasized the grammars, memorizing the words, and reading skills for finding right answers in order to get high scores for the tests. They were all explainers. For me, English was just for one subject and of no use but school course. This feeling was kept until I have been to abroad when I was university student. Frankly speaking, I didn’t think of what the purpose of studying English was til then.

In the experience of my visiting abroad, even though I had no confidence with speaking and using English due to my poor skills, I realized the reason for studying English for myself, by asking about anything that I need for to people living there, especially in regards to use of English for real world. And the reason what I figured out was just as to communicate with foreigners and to speak as naturally as the native speakers. By then, there was no one who let me know about true reasons to study English. This made it possible for me to understand how important being part of learning language with application in practical situation not for an examination. I had been the person who only listened passively and the teachers had only lectured. Since I found out the impact of the interactive participation of class concerning language, I chose the way of studying called as “online video class”, which was studying English and talking in English by person to person through the computer screen using microphone and earplugs at the same time like making a phone call. During this one on one lesson time, my teacher encouraged me to become a main speaker so as to focus on my speaking and let me finish talking even if however long it took times. Also, teacher made use of the Direct Method and Audio-Lingual Method as I recall. These methods resulted in that I finally had the interest to study English as second language as well as helped me to be engaged in the class most of time. Thanks to this, I am still sure to be interested in being taught English.

According to what I went through, I guess that the most effective way to be acquainted second language is student-centered teaching method. Of course, this method is not always the best answers to teach English, such as for teaching grammars, for all that this enables to give rise to fun and concentration to set aside boredom, which is able to make students to continue and keep learning English by themselves with joy. Based on above all, I would like to be a teacher that motivates my students to have a role of the subject at class and lead them to English language acquisition.