My Essay

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Totally, I think my English acquisition experience as a second language was quite successful, compared to ones of the other Korean students in my age. And it started from my father’s wise foresight about English education. When I was 6th grade’s elementary school student, my father registered me in a private English conversation academy for adult learners because he wanted me to be a fluent English speaker. I think it was very effective way to learn English. And now I found it was a typical example of modern class which was very opposite of a traditional class which I learned in my TESOL class.

First, the size was smaller than other typical English class. So, we could talk each other a lot between students & teacher and with students in English. And that was also supported by some U shape seating arrangement. That native speaker teacher class was very good chance for me to get familiar with English based on the input hypothesis by Stephen Krashen who is famous about 2nd language acquisition. I found it can be related with direct methodology.) So, I just tried to hear and speak as much as I can. So this class made my productive skill a lot compared to other public school class mostly focusing on receptive skill through reading Textbook and taking a test. And I think it reflects also ‘acquisition vs learning hypothesis’. Compared to other people who only learn English in public school class which can be traditional class (Jug & Mug, chalk & talk) and focuses on ‘learning’ the language, not ‘acquiring’ language unconsciously, I could acquire English subconsciously very well. And the atmosphere of my class was very fun, so I think it was a typical example of the affective filter hypothesis. With this fun & relaxed atmosphere, I could ask and say anything that I wanted to speak. And the teacher responded me very well and he liked my active attitude very well. Even, he called me his daughter as a kidding. I think he had a good authenticity for me, one of the 3 characters which a good teacher can have. Based on that rapport, I tried to speak as much as I can. Whether the grammar is wrong or not, I tried to make the sentence and say the words to him. But when I went to the middle school in Korea, the English class in there was very different from that I had one before. It was focused on the Grammar Translated method. And the teacher was busy to teach us about each grammar items like past tense, present perfect, passive & active sentence, the components of English sentence etc. (it was deductive way to teach English). And we had to write down and memorize for the test. Therefore, we could easily get lost our interest about English and I just couldn’t understand why I should learn this grammar rule unlike the English class that I previously experienced. And now I know the language learning should be done by inductive learning which can shows the students many examples for that grammar or words until they can figure it out inductively. And to become a good language teacher, I think this method must be mainly used. I will train them not to learn a language deductively event it seems time efficient and easy to memorize.

I would like to say that I would like to spread this English acquisition method & modern class components as far as & as much as I can in this Korea. It might be little bit difficult to change the old traditions in Korean English educational field. But the it should be done and therefore we can make lots of people suffered in learning English though they spent a lot of time & energy for learning English. And I am sure that this dream can be supported and realized from here in TESOL class with good class members & Jayme & good quality book & materials. Thank you. ☺