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| My experiences of learning a second language  |

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| **Name : Jen****Class : TESOL, 147th, WK****Date : January 14, 2017****Teacher : Jayme Brown** |

When it comes to learning a second language, I can't speak it without saying English. I have learned English for more than 10 years, which started from middle school. This has led me to believe that I have been studying English for a long time and I have had enough time to learn it correctly. However when I graduated from university, I could only talk in simple greetings, which were not long sentences or conversations. I started to question, "what on earth have I been learning?" I will begin to discuss the reasons of my second language(English) study failure, skill developments and theories I am learning through TESOL course.

During my school days the only focuses that were taught to learn English were grammar, reading and skills of solving questions for exams. The teaching style was only to convey the information to the students to understand. The atmosphere in the classroom was strict and authoritative, which led the students to be passive. Therefore, the main educational skills were reading and listening that were basic receptive language skills. Besides most teaching styles were lectures and reading for learners that had a retention at a low level.

This lead to me to ask, "what are important for studying languages?" I believe they are strong motivation and active attitude of the learners. The rapport between teachers' and students is also essential because teachers influence their students and motivate them. Appropriate teaching methods like the Grammar-Translation Method, Audio Lingual Method, Communication Language Teaching(CLT), Total Physical Response(TPR) are necessary, too. These factors must be determine the success or failure of studying a language.

Also given that the learners are adults who have special characteristics (i.e. variety, motivation, physical aspects of aging, psychosocial characteristics), the main purpose to learn a foreign language is to communicate effectively. It's important for teachers to create a positive environment. It allows them to really listen to their students, to show respect, patients and a good sense of humor that inspire confidents, to have empathy and authenticity. This also allows teachers know the subject matter and methodology, which show awareness of how individuals or groups are thinking and feeling in the class. This kind of teacher is called ‘the enabler’ in a related theory.

Looking back upon my education, if I had these types of environments, my English might have been better. Fortunately, I have been inspired by my English teacher I met two years ago. This has changed me within myself to follow my dream to learn the TESOL course to become an English teacher. Therefore these days I feel cheerful and worthy to keep learning and practicing it to become a good and effective teacher. I will try to make learning fun and interesting for my students, because it might make a difference in their life like it did in mine.