**Second Language Acquisition**

189wk

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I immigrated to the United States when I was in 7th grade from South Korea. I started middle school in the United States where I learned English as second language. It was mandatory for me to take an ESL class and my environment that I have experienced was well suited to learn English. Overall, my language learning experience was a success.

The ESL class was taught by a native speaker who had used effective teaching styles. During the class, the teacher did not use the traditional teaching styles such as “Jug and mug” or “Chalk & Talk”. The ESL teacher did not just lecture or poured her knowledge, talked and lectured but she interacted and used effective ways of teaching styles. TTT, Teacher Talking Time, was about 70% and STT, Student Talking Time, was about 30%. The ESL class was not teacher-centered or traditional but student-centered. She encouraged the class, which was a small group of students, to be involved in the class and participate in the class. She was an enabler; she knew the subject matter well, shared the control of the class and became a guide a counselor. Even though the students were not adult learners, she used different techniques including group discussions, demonstration and game based learning to make the students’ retention rate to be high. Additionally, she asked instruction check question and concept check questions to make sure that the students had a clear understanding.

 The class was pedagogical for I was young and I highly depended on the teacher for what was taught. I had little experience so the teacher was very influential. I was not an adult in middle school so I was not able to learn andragogical way. My teacher gave intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. She gave me intrinsic motivation because she made learning English fun. My extrinsic motivation was to get a good grade in the class.

My had the characteristics to create an effective learning environment. She showed respect to the students, had authenticity for she was real and genuine and she had empathy and understood the students. She had good rapport, putting the effort to have good relationship and relate to the students. Most importantly, she made the subject matter come alive. She definitely created the conditions and the environment where students were able to learn by helping us to gain exposure to comprehensible samples of language, chances to play with the language and provided ways for the students to communicate with a variety of people.

 In the ESL class, I was able to learn receptive skills by listening to the teacher and peers and reading skills by reading books with the class. Also, I learned productive skills by writing a story or an essay and speaking to the teacher and classmates. The teacher used effective teaching styles by using the integrated-skill approach, incorporating reading, listening, writing and speaking all together in the class. Additionally, I learned the five basic language systems in the class. I learned phenology, the sound of the language by learning words with different sounds and practicing pronunciations of the words. I learned many vocabularies using picture books and index cards, which was visual making it to learn lexis. I also learned grammar, the rules of the language including present tense, past tense, imperatives. I also learned function, situational use of language and discourse, how language relates.

 Furthermore, the teacher incorporated teaching style to use students multiple intelligence. She helped us to think logically by having us do crossword puzzles and other activities, used pictures to help us remember words and learn vocabularies. The students did activities, moving and acting out a play, using bodily and kinesthetic intelligence. She used songs to teach us English encouraging the students to use musical/rhythmic intelligence. I was able to strengthen interpersonal intelligence by having conversation with other students and intrapersonal intelligence by analyzing essays and deconstructing arguments. Lastly, I watched videos in class that described natural word, using naturalist intelligence.

 All in all, my experience learning English as a second language was positive because I had a great teacher who taught effectively.