**My L2 acquisition Experience**

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L2 acquisition refers to people acquiring the ability to perceive and understand a second language, apart from their native language. Language acquisition and Language learning may seem like similar concepts but they are different. They are distinguished as Learning acquisition occurs through a subconscious process without awareness in grammatical rules, while language learning is the result of direct instruction based on the rules of language. I personally believe that my L2 acquisition experience was a success for two specific reasons.

Firstly, my parents strongly motivated me to learn a second language by providing me helpful home education using various teaching techniques. They also enabled me to learn English at a very young age by taking me to America when I was five years old. One of the main teaching techniques my parents used to teach me was ‘The Three Learner Modes,’ visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. For example, my mother used to turn on the BBC news every morning before I went to school. I remember her telling me that simply listening to the language on a daily basis would enhance my English skills. Moreover, my parents introduced me to the game Charades, which is a game where one person silently acts out a particular English word or phrase while the other person tries to guess the correct answer. Playing this game regularly with my parents definitely helped increase my understanding of the English language.

Furthermore, my parents played the role of different teacher types to teach me English through different methods. The teacher types included explainer, involver, and enabler. For example, my parents would lecture me when they helped me with my homework, but they would also put a lot of effort into encourage me to figure out the answers for myself. Often times, they would deliberately ask me several questions so that I would guess the correct answer or they would give me a dictionary to enable me to figure out the meaning of certain words I did not understand. Figuring out the answers for myself not only helped my English acquisition skills but it also helped me feel more confident and helped motivate me to further learn the language. I believe that my parents pursued ‘The Affective Filter Hypothesis’ by helping me correct my own mistakes and by always complementing me when I found the correct answer.

My kindergarten teacher was also a big part of why I successfully acquired the English language. My teacher, Alicia, always used different teaching materials and activities to motivate students to learn in a more active manner. From the way she arranged the desks to the way she taught her class, instead of creating a teacher-centered traditional classroom environment, Alicia formed a more student-centered modern teaching classroom atmosphere. For example, she arranged our desks in a cluster, so that each student would be facing another student. Also, she encouraged active participation and communication by giving us different group activities and discussions. Apart from this, she used different types of visual and auditory aids to help peek our interest in learning.

Additionally, my kindergarten teacher introduced me to many interesting activities that helped me learn English more easily and naturally. One of these activities was called Show and Tell. During this time, each student would go up in front of the class and show the other students one of their most favorite objects and explain why the object was so special. It is stated through the ‘Multiple Intelligence Theory’ that such activities like Show and Tell help students enhance their visual, verbal, and interpersonal intelligence. I agree with this theory, because by participating in this activity, I was able to express myself using the English language with more ease and I was also able to communicate with my fellow students more fluently. Moreover, my teacher enabled me to not only learn but to also mentor other students as well. As I mentioned above, by encouraging me to participate in audio-visual, pair, and group activities, I was able to fully understand the materials I learned and make it my own. This as a result, made it possible for me to deliver what I have learned to the other students. Thus, I was not only learning in class but I was also actively interacting with the other students and we were helping each other throughout the learning process.

Overall, the help of both my parents and my kindergarten teacher is the main reason for my successful L2 acquisition today. I believe that the role of a parent or teacher is important and highly influential when acquiring a language. From my experience, I have realized that although there are many different qualities that make a great teacher, having an empathetic and respectful attitude towards your students and respecting each student’s authenticity are the main qualities that make an effective teacher.

Word Count: 810