

My experience of L2 Acquisition

When babies learn a language, they are not conscious of it. Instead, they hear the language everywhere. As they grow older, they start to speak by imitating the sounds of a word. As time goes on, they start speaking fluently. This creates a natural conversation without the need of studying. This process is called "Acquisitions." It happens when we learn our first language, but it could also be occurred when we learn a second language. There's two ways of learning a second language; Studying and Acquisition. My experience of second language acquisition was successful it began when I studied in Seattle.

Very early times on my school days in Seattle my teacher, Elizabeth asked me what my goals were. She listened and asked follow - up questions. By showing interest in me she demonstrated an awareness of **Individual Learner Differences**. As a result I felt a strong **rapport**, high self esteem, and reminded me of my motivation. At that time I felt comfortable and didn't have any anxiousness. I didn't hesitate to speak English even though it didn't make sense and pushed me to become a **data_gatherer** student. According to **Stephen Krashen**, when students get low anxiety, high self esteem and high motivation the filter doesn't apply in our brain which makes easier to input the Language Acquisition Device. It happened to me. That's why I don't lose my English even I got no English environment.

Out of the **three teacher types**, most of my teachers were Enablers. Especially Elizabeth, she gave me a specific situation which I can bump into in my daily lives while living in the States and made me write down some dialogues with small group. To do this I worked communicatively with a partner. After we wrote conversation, we acted out a small play. Because the activities were practical, it helped me acquire a second language during my stay in Seattle. I could see that she was aware of the six principles of adult learning by **Malcolm Knowles**. For that reason my teacher gave me practical situations. For example, she gave the students the right to choose freely activities in class and gave us a responsibility without any

pressure because she knew the Malcolm's Theory. One day she asked me to give a lesson to the class about any topic I wanted. So I prepared a cooking class and taught the class how to make a Kim-bab. Therefore, the **classroom dynamic** was fun, exciting and positive.

There are two teaching styles, **Traditional vs Modern teaching**. I experienced modern teaching. Teachers weren't just giving us a lecture but usually interacted with all of us. In many classes, teachers were the host of the debate. They were the ones who chose the topic. After that, I ended up making a group with classmates of pros and cons to discuss about it. All the students were actively participating in all classes. Even the seating arrangement were freely decided by students. This made our discussions easier to flow and less burdensome. The students were mainly the speakers while the teacher listened to our thoughtful opinions. According to **Learner Retention Rates**, the technique of the discussion groups or cooperative learning has high numbers of rememberable. It is one of the most effective teaching technique.

The 3 wonderful years experienced in Seattle, I can improved my **Language skill** and successfully acquired my second language. The ingrained errors I struggled with the most were the vocabulary and grammar. I was able to analyze my inaccuracies that made my English insufficient. However, my teachers weren't strict. They corrected my inaccurate grammar errors and tried to minimize my ingrained errors also they were more focused on improving my fluent communication. Therefore all these processes led me to become a more sociable person both at school and my social life in the states. I might not know fancy or academical words, but the practice in communication helped me accumulate various words. Now I can naturally and adequately use English either here in Korea or overseas.

While writing this essay, it reminded the long journey of learning English. I start to realize of how my teachers helped me to acquire the language, and not just lecturing. This proved the acquisition technique worked, motivating me to do the same. Now my objective is to bring this experience into action.

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