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**Essay Topic: My experience of L2 Acquisition - a Success or Failure?**

L2 acquisition is defined as how a person learns his or her second language. According to Stephen Krashen, L2 acquisition is subconscious and natural where the student is able to use the second language as fluent as his or her first language. My experience in L2 acquisition was a success. I would like to elaborate my experience from the time I first started to learn English at age six until the age of twelve.

I started learning English at the age of six when I lived in Baku, Azerbaijan. I went to a very small school that had only thirty students which used American homeschooling materials. Classes required lots of talking and activities from students in English and I was able to learn English very fast. The classroom was active, student-centered and the desks were always arranged in horseshoe or clusters. It had almost all the features of **modern teaching**. Also, the principle emphasized **experiential learning** which is mentioned as eighty percent in **learner retention rate**. For instance, when I was in fourth grade, my teacher, Miss Angie, was teaching me the concept of forest, different kinds of trees and plants. One day, the principal heard about this and she decided to take the school to a field trip to Altyaghach National Park to see the forest and also, have some fun. After this experience, the word ‘forest’ is more natural to me than the Korean word ‘숲’. Also, teachers encouraged us to be active and not be afraid of mistakes which led us to be **data-gatherers**.

My teacher, Miss Angie, was another reason I believe my L2 acquisition was a success. My class consisted of six students, and she was in **rapport** with every one of them. All the students had different nationalities and English level. Since it was a small class, she was able to take care of each student according to the **individual learner difference**. Also, she was able to push each student at a comprehensible level which is important in the L2 acquisition supported by the **input hypothesis**. For example, Miss Angie knew I was a musical, active, and interpersonal, which is intelligence derived from the **multiple intelligence theory**. She knew I would shine on stage so she suggested to me as the main character of the school play. I was really nervous because it was my first time in front of an audience so I was going to decline. However, she believed in me and encouraged me to believe in what I’m able to do. So, I accepted the role and practiced my lines very hard. Frankly, I don’t remember how the play went but memorizing the lines helped significantly in improving my English. She was an **enabler** kind of teacher because she knew what was effective for me and encouraged me to do so.

Lastly, as I mentioned earlier, all the students were from different nationalities. Two were from America, one was from Finland, one from Sweden, and two Koreans including me. Since all were from different countries, the only way to communicate was by using English. Although the English levels were different, as we got closer our English became better. Also, the school held various events for the students and their families to gather and hang out such as Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas Eve gathering. Furthermore, I was close to my friends so whenever there was a chance, I slept over at my friend’s house often. English was everywhere around me so I was able to absorb the language naturally which led me to speak well as it is explained in the **natural order hypothesis**. Moreover, reading English books at school and doing homework helped me to improve reading and writing. Acquiring English at a very early age stayed inside me for a long time, and I was even able to go to college by having a high TOEIC score.

In conclusion, as I look back, I realize how important it is to provide an environment that is natural that even the student does not realize how fast oneself is acquiring. I was lucky enough to build my fundamental strong which has stayed with me until now. Korean education is more of a traditional kind of classroom and a lot of the time I see Koreans being superb in reading and listening but when it comes to speaking and writing, they hesitate. Through this course, I hope to be a teacher like Miss Angie.

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