Name: Soobin Lee

Class Number: 204WK

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

What does the L2 Acquisition mean? A way of learning a second language after my first language has been learned. My first language is Korean. And I have learned second language which is English. I can't answer exactly that my L2 Acquisition is success or failure. That’s why I experience it now. Actually my current L2 acquisition is failure but I will be success after graduating this TESOL class. In this essay I will discuss my experience from the time I first started learning English at age 7 to the time I graduated from University in Korea.

Contrary to ‘Study’, The ‘Acquisition’ is a subconscious acceptance of new language; goes slow to fast; natural; permanently retained; learning is through communication. In spite of very short period, I experienced acquisition when I lived in Jeju Island. One day, my mother showed English animation Dvds which were given by my neighbor. There weren't Korean subtitles in those Dvds. That was not a problem. I don't know how I understood those Dvds which I used to see everyday. Now I think that I have had visual and spatial intelligence of Multiple Intelligence Theory which Howard Gardner created in the 1980s. Until I lived in Jeju Island, I had never taken an English class in the school.

When I was 4th grade in elementary school, I moved to Seoul. Finally I took an English class in the school. I took an English test for the first time. I got a bad score. Then my mother took me an academy in order to improve my good grade, not my L2 Acquisition. And I memorized many vocabularies and rules of a language. Yes. My school and academy's language system is just lexis and grammar. There wasn't the ‘acquisition’ at all. My English teachers whom I had met before were not wrong. They knew student's individual needs. That was Motivation which is for my good grade. And that motivation made me feel bored when I studied English.

Most of Korea schools except for special-purpose high schools specializing foreign languages or international studies has a traditional teaching. So Most Korea students including me didn't have L2 acquisition. Fortunately, I had another acquisition experience when I was 18 years old. One of my aunts got married to the U.S. army. Coming back to Korea, my aunt took me to Yongsan Garrison. I saw the foreign culture there. Though that experience is just one time, I was so excited to get an experience of L2 acquisition. That experience was what I wanted. As a result I failed to have experience of L2 acquisition. Because I studied grammar and reading of English for exams in Korea.

Until now, my type of learners is rule-formers. I have been taught English in order to get a good score or pass the exam. I had prepared the exam of Korea government official for 5 years. At that time I had really studied English hard. My English teacher had taught me grammar of English and skill of how to read the paragraph quickly. There weren't any presentations. There is only his lecture. Yes. He is explainer of three teacher types. And classroom's desk arrangement is rows and columns. There is no dynamic. There is only silence.

After failure of the exam, I gave up the exam and got a job. My job is English teacher in academy. I am just teaching grammar and reading skill as I have been taught before. I have always thought about my speaking in English. I'd like to speak English fluently. And I'd like to teach my student L2 acquisition. One day, I have known TESOL. So I decided to get a TESOL certification. And I enrolled this class. Last class, I studied Malcolm knowles. One of theories is the adult student is internally motivated and self-directed. I agreed this theory at all. But I had a problem. Contrary to my high motivation, my capacity is low. But my TESOL teacher always encouraged me not to give up. He always told me you will be good. Your effort is very nice. No one made fun of me. So I have many opportunities of speaking in English. I'm so fun to take this TESO course.

In conclusion, I used to have failure of L2 acquisition but I think I will have success of L2 acquisition. Because I have experienced it by taking TESOL course.