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

People can learn languages in various ways and they usually have no problem when they are learning their first language. However, learning second language is totally different since we usually learn it by lecture and studying. Compare to that aspect, **second language acquisition** allow people to accept new language subconsciously which is almost similar to the way people learn their first language. This helps people learn new language with no burden and it helps them to speak in that language well too. In my case, my acquisition of second language was not a success so I will discuss my experiences from the time I first started learning English at age 10 to the time I graduated from high school at age 19.

When I think about the time I first started learning English, I can remember that I was really busy memorizing the vocabulary and listening to lecture from the academy. When I was 10, I went to English academy for the first time and it was fun because of friends. There were about 15 students in one class so teacher was unable to have good relationship with each student. We didn’t have good **rapport**, because we barely talked after class and most talking was about homework. Also, there was **individual learner differences** toobecause all 15 students had all different English level. I actually had no motivation on learning English and that class level was difficult for me. However, teacher had followed syllabus schedule so it was hard for me to follow that fast schedule too. This bad rapport and individual learner differences led me to a failure of L2 acquisition when I was 10.

I learned English from that academy for 1 year and at the age 12, I went to the new academy in order to find a new way of studying English. Among **5 systems and 4 skills,** my first academy primarily had reading and grammar so with 1 year of studying, it was just repetition of same material in these two systems. It didn’t help me acquire English so I chose new academy where also teach speaking too. However, most academies including my new academy focused primarily on Lexis and Grammar so acquisition of English failed that time too. When I’m learning something, I like to touch it and see it with drawing because it helps me memorize better. From this style of studying, I realized that I am more like kinesthetic person. The **3 learner modes** include visual, auditory and kinesthetic but learning English is mostly based on auditory, since we are just listening lectures and memorizing words. Therefore, from the age 10 to age 12, my acquisition of learning English didn’t succeed too.

My motivation of studying English arose at the age of 13 because I got a chance to go to the English camp in Korea. Between **Traditional & Modern** style of learning, my middle school’s English class and academy had traditional teaching style which is lecture style and chalk-talk style. I didn’t realize traditional way is bad to acquire new language but I realized it after I went to the English camp for two weeks. Because, English camp taught me English in modern style such as group work, activities, and role-play. But I was more like a **rule-former** person because I was more adapted to traditional style of learning. Therefore, I didn’t participate a lot in there so I didn’t improve a lot from English camp too. From the age of 13 to 16, I realized both ways of learning English but I kept studying in traditional way for my score so my acquisition of learning English didn’t succeed that time.

Finally, I met my high school homeroom teacher who teaches students with respect, passion, and empathy. Among **qualities of effective teacher,** she had many good characteristics and good rapport with students so I also enjoyed studying in her class. I studied English hard in order to get good scores and I also memorized vocabularies a lot. However, according to **learner retention rate**, lecture is not a good teaching way for students to remember the information for long time. And a group discussion or teaching presentation is useful and better way for students to remember the concept well. So even teacher and students had good rapport, there was a limit for me to acquire English as second language.

To sum all up, having good rapport with teacher, class environment, and teaching styles are very important for second language acquisition. Even though I got good scores on my tests, acquisition of new language is totally different since I am struggling with speaking and listening even now. I learned English from traditional style until age 19 so my experience of getting English was not too successful in an acquisition perspective but I can keep try to acquire English continuously. And someday I believe anyone can acquire target language by finding and managing learning styles which can fit onlearning