

My experience of L2 Acquisition - a Success or Failure?

TESOL certificate program

Class Number : 208WD

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Nowadays, people gradually have less children compared to the past decades. I personally think that this result came along because of the hardships of taking care and educating their child. In a child's early lifetime, acquisition takes a big part. Acquisition is a way of learning a second language after your first language has been learned. It is similar to the way you learn your first language. In this essay, I will discuss my experience from the time I first started learning English at age 3 to today.

When I was three years old, I had to go to the States with my family because my father had to go to a law school that was located in New York. At that point, I was really young and I only knew how to speak Korean with my Korean friends and family. I remember going to a day-care at my church. The teacher taught me how to use body language and how to use the word "yes" and "no". I personally think that I met a lot of good teachers that had a really good rapport with me. They made good eye contact with me, they taught me English with using body language at first, they were really patient with me. I think from ages 1-5 years old, the teachers use more body language rather than explaining things in words without any motion. Outside of school, I mostly spent time with my older sister and her native American friends. I followed them around for years and I think the environment made me get used to communicating in English.

When I reached the age 9, I came back to South Korea with my family because my father had finished his studies in the States. At that time, I really had to struggle through a lot of new things. I needed to learn South Korea's culture and needed to adapt a lot of different things. At the age 9, I thought English was my first language, because I forgot how to speak Korean. It was a really funny fact that I needed to relearn my first language. I needed to take Korean lessons in a Korean academy. The fact that I struggled to remember what I learned in class is supported by learner retention rates. Most of the studies that we do in Korea are lecture based,

whereas in America we do more group discussions and teaching or mentoring others. I really struggled to remember things. I learn more when I teach my peers and mentor them. In order to teach someone, you need to know the material well. Also, if you start to teach them, you will get to know it better. You would remind yourself how you studied this material and how it affected you. My personal thoughts about myself is that I think I could be a good teacher. I really like teaching and listening to others and I really do enjoy teaching. I feel really happy when people get what I am talking about. I think I would be an involver or an enabler as a teacher in the upcoming future. I am really hyped about myself becoming a teacher. I really love to engage with young kids!

During my high school years, I had struggled for almost a year to get used to the new SAT. I always questioned myself about my learning skills and got depressed easily. I am a visual, kinesthetic and musical learner but all of these in my later education did not happen at all. We only dug into our textbooks and the instructor was just lecturing and reading out what the book said. I do not think that this type of teaching is effective to students. Everybody would get easily distracted and they would think that they did not get anything out of that lecture.

In conclusion, I think I had a huge success with my second language acquisition. As a teacher making good eye contact with the student would give each other good rapport and would make the student feel encouraged and respected. I am blessed with meeting such wonderful teachers in my life, now including David!

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