217th TESOL  **Evelyn LEE**

**Essay Topic : My Experience of L2 Acquisiton - a Succrss or Failure?**

According to Stephen Krasen, L2 acquisition is a subconscious process and the learners acqurie the second language using through the communication like the way they've learned native language. My experience of L2 acquisition was successful. In this eaasay, I am going to talk about 15 months when I was in United States from age 27 to 28.

I stayed at my Korean friend Hena's at first when I moved to Colorado Springs in US. Her husband, Bob mostly didn't understand what I said, and kept asking “Say again?” It was hard to speak out and I felt low self-confidence and high enxiety at that time. As time goes by, Hena and Bob encouraged me and tried to use easy and simple English to me. I could understand better and be relieved to say something like even saying hello. There was a strong affective filter in the early time, but since I had been more comfortable, I had high motivation, self-confidence and low anxiety. I usually learned words and expressions through communicative situations. So it was fun and easy to keep in my mind.

I met a teacher, Liz when I took a international language course. Students came from everywhere. It was literally international and I could hear many different accents and Liz had strong dialect. While we were having classes together for 6 months, I got used to them and realizded people spoke differently not like recording voices. Especially Liz helped me out to overcome my hearing problems. She was a very positive, patient person and perfect listener. When I had questions or problems, she was always there. She had qualities of effective teacher. We established a close rapport and it influenced me to accept English more naturally.

Once I was invited to a Chritimas party, Hena and I went shopping together. We looked around several stores and asked the clerks to find some nice dressses. When I had questions or wanted to try it on, I asked them and they responded me. It was very dynamic like a morden teaching classroom. I learned many expressions like dress up, it's up to you, play it by ear, hang out, thank you for having me, etc. That was so much fun and deep into my brain.

I happened to find out a mistake what my professor made during his Algebra class two times. One was the first class and the other was the last one at the quater. He had me come to the board and correct it both times. When I got back to my seat at the last class, he smiled and pointed at me “You got double F.” We all laughed out loud and I smiled back and said “I apologize it but I couldn't heip it.” In that situation, I used my multiful intelligencies like mathmetical, linguistic and interpersonal intelligence and never forgot what happened.

I made a friend, Gina who worked for a local newspaper. One day she invited me and asked, “What do you like to eat?” and I said “I'm a good eater.” Her younger brother next to me started laughing. Gina explained to me kindly and showed a better sentence like “I eat almost everything” and added “I'm starving. I can even eat a horse.” I giggled and kept repeating the last sentece. I thought I could make a noun with verb plus “-er”. Now I know “eater” is a baby word, and won't use it for myself anymore. Through this practical discours, I obtained a grammatical knowledge.

When I hung out with my friends, he poured me juice and said, “Say when.” It didn't make sense to me at all. I knew the meaning of “Say” and “When” separately but had no idea about “Say when.” So I said nothing. After three seconds, my glass was filled up then I noticed what it ment. Nobody explained to me but I could learn something automatically.

In conclusion, my experience of L2 acquisition was definitely successful. In fact, I couldn't speak English confidently for the first 10 months. I believed my L2 seed was growing up during that time. I interally motivated and enjoyed whenever I exposed to whole different language circumstances. Those were not like textbook or recorded tape but much exciting, practical and alive. I could develop my receptive and productive skills through communications and acquired my L2 at last.