**Name : Summer**

**Class Number : 220WK**

**Essay Topic : My experience of L2 Acquisition – a Success or not?**

There are two ways to acquire second language. One is through **Acquisition** and the other one is studying. As most Koreans do, studying is a general way to be done during school time. It is a hard time for students to memorize information deeply. On the other hand, if we obtain knowledge subconsciously, such as being in a country which uses English as a first language or learning it through use of communication, you can learn it effectively. That is the way of Acquisition, which I have experienced when I went to the Philippines for studying. When I learned through interacting with other students and teachers who are from diverse countries, I could learn how to use English comfortably. That was acquisition which I had not experienced when I was young in Korea. So, I want to share what I experienced there.

The school I attended in the Philippines consisted of students from different countries such as Korea, Japan, Taiwan and other non-speaking countries. Despite the students’ **Individual Learner differences** in culture, age, language, traditions and etc., students there were able to learn the lessons in a harmonious way. The teachers created a very conducive environment for learning. The students are given with the opportunity to speak more and apply the lesson that they have learned in class. The role of the teacher is just to facilitate the students during this learning process. This is a good example and application of the **Modern ways of teaching.** Most of the students in the academy are adults. So they are aware of their responsibilities as a student. They are also experienced and could share more in class using the language. The students are also more mature and have the motivation to learn. This is related to **Malcolm Knowles’ Research Task**.

There are man to man classes and group classes in the academy. These classes had different types of classes that would target the **Language Skills and Systems**. There were speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary and etc. These are very helpful classes that really improved my language skills. The group classes, specifically, had group activities that would allow students to use English through presentation, skits and other activities that would make the students stand up and perform using the language. Learning is done not only by looking at the book or listening to the teacher, but participating in group activities as well, which is a good example of the **Three Learner Modes** (visual, auditory and kinesthetic). The classes had various activities that would target **multiple intelligences**, not only using the words of the language, but also activities using music, pictures, puzzles and even numbers. These variations in learning acquisition are very effective ways to learn.

At the end of the month, there are exams done to **Assess Language Proficiency** and check the student’s level. This would also track the student’s progress from the beginning of his/her studies. Top students are also awarded with certificates and gift cards for motivation to learn more and work harder. The students tend to remember the lessons through application of the things that they learned. In my experience, I had several speaking activities every time the teacher finishes a grammar lesson. There are reviews at the beginning and at the end of the class. These kinds of activities improve the **Learners’ Retention Rates** by a big difference compared to classes that do not do so. The teachers are trained regularly by veteran teachers. The teachers also receive workshops and conventions that would greatly help improve the teachers’ way of teaching. Most of the instructors I had were bachelor holders of education and, therefore, they are knowledgeable on how to handle classes. They have also gained experience in teaching (being empathetic, authentic, and etc) which they have applied in our classes. With these reasons, I believe that these things improve the **Effective Teaching** method.

To sum up, my trip to the Philippines has been the most memorable moment in my life. I had fun and I learned English at the same time. I had met people and became friends with them. Because of this opportunity in my life, I realized how fascinating English language is and how fun it is to teach other people things that I have acquired.

**\*Total Words: 711**