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Essay Topic: My experience of Second Language Acquisition – a Success or not?

Before I start, let me define the meaning of Second Language Acquisition. Second language acquisition means developing a second language with the first language acquired and how to get a second language is similar with how to get a first language. In this essay, I will discuss my learning experience from the time I started learning English in middle school to the time I graduated from high school in Korea.

In the middle school, I got an English education in **Traditional class**. The class was teacher-centered and no eye-contact with the strict atmosphere. Naturally I became a rule-formers among **Types of learners**. Until then, any teachers didn't care about L2 acquisition. They always explain everything, so I tried to memorize what I learned to get a better score on tests. The only thing I could do is listening their explanation. Now I get that teaching at that time is not effective supported by **Learner Retention Rates**.

After I got into high school, I could get a better English education. Most of teachers gave us traditional class, but one of the teachers was different. She was trying to have **Rapport** with every student. She always smiled and talked with us a lot. With good rapport, we liked to take her class, and we became active to any activities she suggested. She liked to let us do pair work for **Classroom Dynamic**. We have many chances to discuss and share what we learned. I think she understood **The Affective Filter Hypothesis**. She always tried to use attractive resources to keep students motivated. She showed us video of her own experience and encouraged us to challenge various activities in the world. For example, I remember her skydiving video and her saying. She said that if we acquire English, we can go anywhere, and do anything without restriction. That gave me not only motivation but also self-esteem. I wanted to try many things by myself using English like her. That made me think how I can acquire English not studying textbook seriously.

Her teaching method was rare to see in common high school class because every teacher focused on the way to get better score on tests. She didn't ignore the textbook or curriculums, but she made us use **Multiple Intelligence** to learn English. We should use English during class for our verbal and linguistic intelligence. We had to read the context one by one out loud and she gave feedback to each student. We all could listen accurate pronunciation, practice speaking, and participate in the class. Until middle school, I just memorized vocabulary, grammar skills and the important point for mid-term or final exam. I never had spoken English sentence during class before.

So, it was my first try to communicate with English. Although I was not good at listening and speaking, she never embarrassed me at all. She had patience to explain what I didn't understand. Maybe she had patience and authenticity as an **Effective Teaching Quality**.

While I'm writing down essay, my respect for her teaching is increasing. I can't believe her open-mind and recognition for **Individual Learner Differences**. There were about 30 students every class. Each student had different English levels, motivation, and attitude. However, most of students affected from her including me. She might be aware of various differences students have and develop and maintain rapport. I think her good rapport must affect my L2 acquisition. That's why I still respect her.

I never had thought about my experience of L2 acquisition before this assignment. I thought studying and acquisition are the same. But I realized they are different through the TESOL class and reviewing my experience. Until middle school, I didn't acquire language at all. I studied the language as a subject in the curriculums without any motivation. Fortunately, I met the teacher who developed rapport, and used effective teaching method. I think my L2 acquisition is started from rapport with wonderful teacher in high school. I'm sure I could get a successful acquisition from my experience. This essay makes me consider what kind of teacher I want to be in the future. I hope I can be a teacher to help the students to get a second language acquisition.

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