

## My experience of L2 Acquisition - a Success or Failure?

Second language acquisition is the concept of learning second language like the way we acquired our first language, which is naturally receiving comprehensible input in a relaxed and high-motivated environment. In this essay, I would like to describe how I 'acquired' my second language, English. Before that, I will specify the time that I started learning English at age 7 to before I go to high school.

First, there was a strong **rapport** between my teacher and me. My very first English teacher was the homeroom teacher of the English Kindergarten. She had great **effective teaching qualities**, such as that she listened to her students carefully, tried to communicate with us and always smiled. That made me feel that she really cared about us. Sometimes she gave us positive feedbacks written on a little note. Now I could figure out that she understood **individual learner differences**. Because she noticed how each of us is different, so every student got different notes. I truly believe that she is one of my best teachers, and I remember the way she treated her students colorfully until now.

Second, the rapport established a great **classroom dynamic**, and it is related to other factors of second language acquisition. The teachers that I met acknowledged the importance of classroom dynamics, so they put a quite big amount of effort into making fun and motivating classroom dynamics. They used various materials in the classes to draw attention and make the class active. But they were not the only purpose. What I realized is that it was a very effective method to cover **three learner modes, multiple intelligence theory**, and even **learner retention rates**. For example, some of my teachers brought a music video and a dictation note. We listened to music and guess what words should be in blanks. She explained the grammar and expressions of the song. Then we sang together and memorized the lyrics. I had so much fun with this activity. As a visual learner, sometimes I struggled with understanding a normal lecture which is basically just an audio. But at that time, I could follow the lyrics along the music and it was much easier to get to the point of the lesson. I have quite high musical and verbal intelligence, so apparently, the activity stimulated those parts. Also, I could easily remember the lesson because they used audio-visual technique which is more effective than lecture or reading.

Third, it was a **modern classroom** environment most of the time. When I was in Kindergarten, it was definitely a modern classroom with a horse-shoe shaped desk arrangement and experiential learning program. In elementary school, sometimes classes operated as a lecture

style, but there was a special class for English. It is more focused on conversation, so it had an island desk arrangement and a lot of contents, like a singing, chant, discuss, and presentation. Even in middle school, I had classes that are run in English and contained a lot of research, group work, and speech. In the classes, **the types of teachers** were mostly enablers, so they gave us brief instruction and let us do activities. I actively engaged in various activities and I have much time to talk. Also, I had a chance to participate in club activities with native-speaking teachers. I was in an English church club, since my school was a mission school, I prepared services by every week. I practiced church songs and moves and memorized bible verses. The most memorable experience that I had in this club is that I took a part in a Christmas play that held at a chapel. While I practicing the play, I was naturally accustomed to a lot of useful English phrases. In this environment, I could get my English without **monitoring myself or anxiety**, but it let me have high **self-esteem** in learning English.

Finally, I acquired my English pretty successfully. I could relate my experiences to what I learned. These experiences affected me being more **data-gatherer** than **rule-former**. I am highly motivated to learn more about teaching English in a playful and natural way. Thanks to my previous teachers, I am still enjoying learning English. I want to be a good teacher like those I met.

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