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Essay Topic: My experience of L2 Acquisition – a Success or Failure?

Second Language Acquisition (L2 Acquisition) means learning a second language after a first language is already established. Almost all of us try to acquire abilities of Second Language. There are so many and various languages as options of second language. But as many Koreans do, I chose English as my second language. In this essay, I want to talk about my L2 Acquisition experience during middle school periods and the reason why I regard my experience as **failure**.

When I was middle school student, What I and My friends did during English class was just watching blackboard in front of us with hearing sounds of teacher's explanation and chalk. There are just two Intelligence of **Multiple Intelligence Theory** in class: Visual/Spatial and Verbal/Linguistics. Although that was English class, I couldn't hear English voices from students to practice speaking. The only chance for speaking was given to us when we have questions about something related with English and We should use Korean when we speak. It was good sample of the inactive classroom missing **Rapport**. Not only My middle school but also Many other schools might have same education systems at that time. The Missing of Kinesthetic in **Three Learner Modes** made me boring and discouraged whenever I tried to study English hard.

After the class, I always wondered why English should be taught by this way. I had confidence to say that English education system of Korea is inefficient and terrible for students. Of course, I understand that it is very difficult to meet all **individual Learner differences** of students in a class at the same time. But there were no efforts to develop efficient education methods and systems as solutions for decreasing gaps among students about this matter. What Teachers of my middle school did in a class are just reading the contents of books and writing something on the blackboard for explanation of grammar. Teachers were 100% explainer in **Three Teacher Types**. We focused on only teacher's voice and black board because we had to take a note of not only everything written by teacher on the board but also what teacher said during explanation. I was very sad when I thought that it is impossible to defeat Traditional Teaching for Modern Teaching in **Traditional Teaching vs Modern Teaching** game.

The only reason why I studied English is for not increasing speaking or reading abilities but solving problems in examinations. Teachers didn't explain the principle of making sentence and I didn't need to read and understand all of sentences for solving problems. it was stupid choice to read all

sentences in examination because of time limitation. After examinations, I was discouraged by checking and comparing my record with others. Of course, Records of exam is the result from lack of my ability and effort for studying. I don't want to excuse about it. But it is true that the way of English teaching affected me. I thought that overall education systems of Korea should be changed as soon as possible. Even if students are same age, their reading, listening, writing ability and skills in English are all different. English Classes should be divided by levels of **Assessing Language Proficiency** so students can have chance to receive appropriate and efficient education opportunity matched with their level.

The main purpose of language is communication. But My teachers in middle school just used techniques that have low **Leaner Retention Rates** like lecture, reading, audio-visual. Almost every system for teaching in a class was focused on not student but Teacher so Teachers felt hard for **Establishing a Classroom Dynamic**. In addition, because there were no examinations of speaking in middle school, not only me but also many students didn't try to remember and practice exact pronounce when study vocabulary. I always regret to have studied vocabulary in long ways.

In conclusion, because of wrong education just specialized in examinations, I couldn't have enough chances to use English for communication with others. After graduation of middle school, what I could do was just solving problem. That is the reason why I assess my experience of L2 Acquisition in middle school as **Failure**. Through this essay, I realize that situations of English education are not changed from past. Because I want all students are given best education for English, I will do my best to be a leader of advanced English teaching.

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