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< My experience of L2 Acquisition – A success or failure? >

What is Language acquisition? Language acquisition is the process by which humans acquire the capacity to comprehend language as well as to produce and use words and sentences to communicate. This explanation sounds very sound. We all safely think that language exists for comprehension and communication, But actually, lots of students and people in Korea rarely achieve English acquisition. I was also like one of those students. my English learning was a total failure during teens with teachers who were utter Explainers in the theory of **Three teach types** and lacking of **Assessing language proficiency** towards students. They didn't enough make use of **Three learner modes** and didn't consider **Individual learner difference** as well.

but at a point, I got to realize the very important essence of learning a Language towards English acquisition thanks to successful Japanese learning. I want to talk about my experience of English acquisition.

The first game-changer of English learning came from a question "how did I get to get this great Japanese competence and performance in a year?". once I memorize a new word, I was able to apply the word to produce any sentences in Japanese effortlessly, And I was able to understand what Japanese say and to speak Japanese with proper pronunciation easily. Apparently, this system didn't work in my English

With a strong desire that I wanted to speak English fluently like how I speak Japanese, I started to memorize words in proper pronunciation, taking notes of examples of the words as well and learnt many things in speaking like prolonged sound, contraction, silent syllables. I also studied various grammars again to get the structures of English so that I can able to produce whatever sentences I want to use. Once I changed the goal to learn grammar, learning grammar was not boring but very essential, and I tried to let my ears get used to English by native speakers. This experience is related to **Malcolm Knowles'** theory saying adults' mindset in L2 acquisition.

My second game-changer in acquiring English was to meet many foreigners in university. the motivation from using real English with people worked so much to me and stimulated me to learn English hard. Tracking back to the period, I had zero Affective filter in **Stephen Krashen's** theory. Because those friends were also second language learners. Maybe if most of friends had been from English speaking countries, I might have had some pressure to speak English. At first, sometimes I couldn't speak what I wanted right away, working the monitor, But I was able to speak naturally as time goes by, not to mention that I shaped **Rapport** with my friends. As I see myself speaking better English, I gained more confidence in using English. In addition, the ultimate best environment of using English was given to me by having a foreign girlfriend who used perfect English. Learning a language gets greatly easier if you date a person using the language. With this great situation for learning English, I noticed that it's very exciting and interesting to use words that I'd just memorized during a conversation or writing. the retention of the words was relatively very long. I was also able to learn English through Interlocutors' words and intonation. This explains **Learner retention rates** theory.

There are more elements in which I was able to boost speaking and listening ability. Basically, I am a person who is sensible to sound with some knowledge of vocalness and music. That's why I naturally caught the difference between English and Korean in speaking and tried to mimic like native speakers. With some experiments with my voice, I could eventually have my own English tone. this interest in music has involved me more in English by listening to a ton of songs in English. This is related to **Multiple intelligence** theory, which says individuals have their strengths. Lots of people say that language learners who are music experts have also a talent for language. In addition, watching dramas and films have also helped me improve my speaking and listening skill a lot. This way's been very effective due to my interest in films and dramas

Lastly, though I explained those elements of how my English got to reach this level, everything comes down to three things. I think that ultimate L2 English acquisition comes from an endless English environment, persistence and motivation. Since English is so much different from Korean that English acquisition requires so much time and effort.

