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

In this essay, I will discuss my experience of learning English from middle school till high school in Korea. There are 2 ways to develop a language. They are either acquisition or studying. A language acquisition means that it is accepted subconsciously and the information is stored deeply in the brain through communication. It will not be easily forgotten nor unnatural. We can all acquire language with high motivation, comprehensible input, and low anxiety. However, my experience of L2 Acquisition was a failure.

My L2 classes were in a teacher-center classroom where teaching was more important than learning. There were less eye contact, no smiles, and lots of stress. This created weak **Rapport** with my teacher and stood in the way of language learning. This made me passive and I was not able to actively participate in the class. A weak rapport makes weak **Classroom Dynamics**. Only heavy textbooks were used as materials and no brainstorming nor teamwork were required. All students were just sitting at their desks with no activities promoting movement. This environment was not attractive to me and moreover, it was difficult to communicate with other students and teacher. My teacher didn’t plan lessons considering **Individual Learner Differences** such as topics of interests, English level, abilities, and previous learning experiences. Especially mixing up students with different English level made me difficult to concentrate on learning as it was less interesting or too easy for me.

I’ve learned English at **Traditional Classroom** where desk arrangements were made in rows and columns. Classes were mainly focused on reading and writing out of **4 Language Skills**. The atmosphere were too strict and non-communicative. I couldn’t ask questions during class. This was blocking my motivation and didn’t help my L2 learning. Among the **Types of Learners**, it made me as rule-formers. It helped me to score well on tests with accurate language use, but I couldn’t speak fluently. My **Teacher’s Type** was explainer as class was based on lectures with weak rapport. My teacher was most of the time using limited teaching techniques such as lecture, reading, and audio-visual. They are the usual teaching techniques used in traditional classrooms by explainer teachers. Low S.T.T (Student Talk Time) and high T.T.T (Teacher Talk Time) make language learning most effective and therefore, I had difficulty remembering what I have learned. This means low **Learner Retention Rate**.

I can speak Korean much better than English as they were taught in different ways. I’ve learned Korean through natural communication, but learned English always thinking of accuracies and errors. For my L2 learning, I’ve had low motivation, low self-esteem, and high anxiety. I could only speak English after translating my thoughts from Korean to English. My **L2 Acquisition** was not successful. During classes, not all **3 Learner Modes** were used. Only visual and auditory were used for learning. So I was not able to clearly understand the meaning of words and grammar appropriately. Sometimes, I was confused and made me hesitant to speak or write English. **Multiple Intelligence** **Theory** shows that students have different strength and weakness which can increase their confidence and help language learning. I am logic smart, self smart, and people smart, but not body smart. Since my classes were not designed based on my strong intelligences, I was not comfortable with L2 learning. Sometimes, it took much more time for me to understand the contents and this lessened my confidence. It affected me to slowly develop my L2 learning.

My English had been taught by explainer teachers in an environment of traditional classroom, weak rapport, weak classroom dynamics, and no consideration of individual learner difference, multiple intelligence theory, 3 learner modes, learner retention rate, and types of learners. This could only led my L2 Acquisition to a failure. This essay assignment made me realize that if my teachers and I had chances to know about “Module 1: Language and Learning” much earlier, my English learning would have been better and my L2 Acquisition would have succeeded with no doubt. As a trainee, I will try to build good rapport with students to lead to good classroom dynamics. I will perform modern teaching with combination of learner modes for high learner retention rate. After better understanding of students, individual learner difference and multiple intelligence theory will be applied for an effective L2 learning. Reducing student’s anxiety, boosting their self-confidence, and keeping them motivated will lead success to L2 Acquisition!

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