

Life Story of a Japanese Language Learner

Natsumi Kuroda

Natsumi: So, first, can I ask your name?

1. Yasuhiro: Uh...My name is Yasuhiro Maruyama from...from Japan.
2. N: Okay, uh...so you are a male, and how old are you?
3. Y: I'm uh twenty three years old.
4. N: Okay, uh...You said you are from Japan, so what languages do you speak?
5. Y: I speak uh...Japanese cuz I'm from Japan and I learned Japanese for twenty three
6. years. So, my language is Japanese.
7. N: Okay, then you are speaking English now. Uh...so you learned English when you
8. were young, when you were a child. So, that's your foreign language or your
9. second language?
10. Y: Japanese?
11. N: I mean English.
12. Y: English is my second language.
13. N: Second language means in Japan people...some of the people in Japan speak English
14. as well.
15. Y: No no not at all. Like sometime sometime you can see someone speak speak English
16. very fluently in Japan, but usually no one speak English because Japanese language
17. is just the only one official language, so..
18. N: Okay, so usually in Japan you don't really have to speak English. You don't have to
19. use English at all.
20. Y: No no no.
21. N: That means English is your foreign language, right?
22. Y: Uh-hun.

23. N: Okay. Uh...your parents also speak the same language as you? Uh...Japanese and
24. also English?
25. Y: Experience?
26. N: No. Your parents.
27. Y: Parents. What does that mean?
28. N: Your parents. Your mother and father.
29. Y: My, uh...parents. Yeah, my parents speak uh... Japanese of course because they are
30. Japanese.
31. N: Just Japanese, not English. Okay, uh...so, uh...I want to ask you about how
32. you, learned English which is your foreign language. So, do you remember when
33. you started to study English?
34. Y: My study? I started studying English uh...from twelve years old when I get into the,
35. got into the junior high school as the other Japanese students do.
36. N: Okay, so before you entered junior high school, you never touched any English.
37. Y: Uh...not never. Because sometimes uh...TV, educational TV NHK, uh...it's a
38. Japanese National TV program. And uh...sometimes I watched the TV and uh...and
39. uh...I listened to the English. And I just imitate some words when I watched the TV
40. program.
41. N: Do you remember how old were you at that time you were watching those TVs?
42. Y: I think uh...the TV program is was very old, so like I don't know when, so I
43. watched the TV program when I was around...the five or six.
44. N: Uh-huh. Okay.
45. Y: No no no uh...yeah five or six.
46. N: Five or six, so the program was...uh the program used some English by native
47. speakers.

48. Y: Of course. Yeah.
49. N: And then you imitated some sounds or some words.
50. Y: yeah sometimes, that's just imitating. That's not the more than that.
51. N: You were just enjoying watching TV and imitating some sounds.
52. Y: Well, I think I couldn't get the kind of exact meaning, but I just like...I just liked the
53. sound, so...like...you know.
54. N: So, you often watched those TVs when you were young?
55. Y: No not often. But I just get bored, I have nothing to do, so I just watched the TV. I
56. think every Japanese Japanese child, children watch the TV program I think.
57. N: Okay.
58. Y: That's very famous one.
59. N: Okay, and then you entered junior high school and you started to take English
60. classes there right?
61. Y: uh-huh.
62. N: Was it taught in Japanese or in English?
63. Y: Uh...Japanese, in Japanese.
64. N: In Japanese. So you studied English in Japanese by uh... Japanese English teacher.
65. Y: Uh-huh.
66. N: Okay.
67. Y: Not exactly not anytime, sometime there's a English American teacher and come to
68. class and I uh.. he he told me something like American like you know, and he talk he
69. told me that some story, that you know, how to pronounce real English.
70. N: Okay, so how many times did you usually have English classes in a week?
71. Y: Uh...I didn't remember that, but...you know...
72. N: Was it almost every day?

73. Y: Three. Three...uh...no I don't know four days or five days a week I don't know
74. because we have kind of not every day not every day four days a week or three
75. days a week I think. That's not a lot.
76. N: Okay and how long was the class usually?
77. Y: Fifty...fifty minutes.
78. N: Fifty minutes uh-huh.
79. Y: Usually uh we have.
80. N: And, you said you were taught English in Japanese. That's three times a week, three
81. or four times a week.
82. Y: No, I don't remember exactly, but uh... something like that
83. N: And you also said sometimes a native English speaker came to your class to teach
84. how to pronounce English words?
85. Y: Yeah.
86. N: How often was it?
87. Y: Well. (long pause.) Once a three classes I don't know every every three classes or
88. something.
89. N: Okay, so when your Japanese teacher of English is teaching English in Japanese
90. during that time, the native English teacher showed up in your class and then
91. started to teach English in English.
92. Y: No, just kind of a help help things, so my teacher my Japanese teacher told
93. like....lead the classes, but the the American teachers just stand behind him and uh..
94. besides him, and just uh...sometimes Japanese teacher ask him to to pronounce it
95. or read a text book or sometime sometimes my Japanese teacher ask him to show
96. the American culture or something like that.
97. N: So, sometimes the American English teacher leaded the class, and sometimes.

98. Y: No not leading just uh...
99. N: Just a help.
100. Y: Talk just uh speak out.
101. N: Okay, how to pronounce English words, something like that. Did you have
102. opportunity to uh... communicate with your classmates or your teacher in English?
103. Y: What you mean?
104. N: In the classes you know like...
105. Y: The, the, the opportunities to talk in English?
106. N: uh-huh.
107. Y: Uh... no no. but outside of the class, after the class, I just uh... talk with the
108. American teacher in English. He can't he can't speak Japanese, so I just after class
109. not inside the class.
110. N: You said he can't he can't?
111. Y: He can't he cannot.
112. N: Speak Japanese at all
113. Y: So, so just I when I wanna talk with American English teacher, I just talked in
114. English.
115. N: Oh.
116. Y: But it's just not just not in classroom just outside of the classroom.
117. N: So, during the break time, you just went to his room and talked with him... in
118. English.
119. Y: Yeah right. Some of my friends, my friends went to his room and uh... just chatting.
120. N: In English?
121. Y: Yeah.
122. N: So when you were even in your first year in your junior high school, even at that

123. time you talked to him in English?

124.Y: What's that?

125.N: Because I, you know, if you started to study English... at the age of twelve or

126. thirteen when you were first year in junior highs school, you...

127.Y: Oh yeah. That was not the first year, I think.

128.N: No?

129.Y: Because I'm not close to the..

130.N: When was it?

131.Y: When I was a third year of my junior high school, so around fourteen... the

132. fourteen...

133.N: Uh-huh, so when you were in the third year in junior high school, you started to

134. have his class, you know like...

135.Y: Right, sometime English teacher change every time every year, so the he was a new

136. teacher at the time.

137.N: Okay, okay. And at that time you knew some English phrases or you could speak

138. some sort of English. That's why you could communicate with him in English.

139.Y: Uh-huh.

140.N: Was it hard?

141.Y: No no. I think uh in Japanese education English education, uh...someone say that

142. that's not the ... good for conversation...uh...conversation, but ah.. I could

143. communicate with him. Even I just study three years since I get into a junior high

144. school, so I think I could because my my my vocabulary is very limited at that time

145. but that was enough for me to say something like you know what like "how are

146. you?", or "I'm happy". "I like something" or something like that right? Those kind

147. of things were everything is enough for me to to communicate with them.

148.N: Okay, then your American teacher understood what you were talking about?

149.Y: Yeah yeah.

150.N: That's nice.

151.Y: He's a teacher, so.

152.N: Yeah. So, uh... you said you had those you know kind of real English class, that

153. means I think your Japanese teacher teacher also did some English class like

154. communicative class?

155.Y: No no no.

156. N: How was your Japanese English teacher's style of teaching English?

157.Y: Uh...it's just uh.he has a textbook,

158.N: Uh-huh.

159.Y: And every students has a textbook. And he just uh...there is kind of some some uh

160. sample of text sample, and textbook said, so he just speak out read out.

161.N: The textbooks.

162.Y: The the text. And we just sometimes we we read out again, the students do do

163. imitate his English.

164.N: Repeat after him.

165.Y: And... after, yeah right. And after we read a textbook, he explained the grammatical

166. things like the...yeah...he will do he do the lecture he did the lecture.

167.N: About grammar and vocabularies.

168.H: yeah right. Right. And the both.

169.N: Uh-huh. You had some quizzes, tests?

170.Y: Uh-huh. Yeah, of course. Like the quizzes, usually the quizzes uh just the reading

171. quiz. I think there's there's uh long text on the test paper and you read out and then

172. like there's a some questions about about uh... the text.

173.N: Uh-huh.

174.Y: So it's it's mainly the grammatical things.

175.N: Okay, not listening or not speaking at all?

176.Y: I don't remember that, but when I was a high school student, I think I did the

177. listening listening uh question but I think in junior high I think I don't have any

178. listening.

179.N: No?

180.Y: Exam or something. Yes quiz.

181.N: Okay, so you never had the English class which was conducted only by native

182. speaker like you said you liked the American English teacher and you also said that

183. the American teacher helped your Japanese English teacher.

184.Y: Yeah, kind of assistant. He assist the teacher.

185.N: So he always assisted the Japanese teacher of English.

186.Y: Right.

187.N: He never had his own class.

188.Y: I I uh almost forgot, but I just remember we have one class kind of a special class,

189. and uh I think the American teacher, just the American teacher did the lectures. I

190. don't know why.

191.N: Just American teachers did the lectures?

192.Y: Ah-huh, ah-huh.

193.N: What do you mean?

194.Y: He lead the class.

195.N: In junior high?

196.Y: No, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah sometime.

197.N: Ah sometime.

198.Y: No, no just once.

199.N: Just once.

200.Y: But he has opportunities to have a class, his own class.

201.N: Okay just once or..

202.Y: At the time Japanese teacher didn't uh...didn't lead a class he just wait I mean listen

203. the just you know sitting backside of the classroom.

204.N: Okay, okay, okay so when the American teacher led your class how did he teach

205. English to you students? What kind of style of teaching did he use in teaching

206. English? The...the English ah...American English teacher?

207.Y: Uh...so I didn't remember that. Umm...I think that teacher my English teacher,

208. teacher from Ame... the United States did some kind of uh... kind of a lecture about

209. a about a the American culture or western culture, that was kind of like, I don't know

210. cuz that was a special special opportunity so that was not a usual class that was not a

211. grammatical teacher that class was just a opportunity for students to meet the

212. American culture, so...

213.N: Okay, but the lecture was all in English.

214.Y: Of course.

215.N: And you and your classmate all understood him?

216.Y: Umm...he, I think so cuz the Englihs teacher just used the simple words, so I think

217. so, that's not so long time just just...

218.N: Just a little.

219.Y: Forty minutes or so.

220.N: Uh-huh.

221.Y: I think just one opportunity for him to have a class in my junior high

222.N: You said uh you were talking with those American teachers outside the classroom,

223. and you think umm that you were talking with those American teachers outside of

224. the classroom helped you with understanding his lecture, and taught in English?

225.Y: Uh...what you mean?

226.N: Like... do you think you understood his lecture in English because he talked with

227. him outside the classroom?

228.Y: No, I mean I don't think so. I think the lecture in the classroom and chatting outside

229. the classroom is uh very different things, right? I don't know at that time I don't

230. likes the English at that time.

231.N: Oh really.

232.Y: Cuz in classroom, so I'm not kind of grammatical things or like a the reading

233. textbooks. That's not my things and the uh also I didn't care about English at all that

234. time, right? I'm not I have not plan to study abroad at that time right? So, the

235. chatting and speaking with the uh native speaker native teacher outside the

236. class...room was just enjoying uh you know what, and that's I'm never focused on

237. uh like I never though that the chatting with the native speaker was the chance to to

238. improve my English I never thought I never tried to improve my English. I just

239. enjoyed the one so you know what in the classroom Japanese teacher uh ask me to

240. improve English right? Grammatical things and something like that, but outside the

241. roo...classroom when I talk with the American uh teachers native teacher. I never, I

242. forget, I totally forgot my my the class room things I just about textbook things I just

243. talk with him I just talk with him I thought he's my friend, so that's not the English.

244. That's not the kinda I don't know you know what...

245.N: Was he young?

246.Y: Uh... I don't know it's he has I don't know kinda thirty or twenty nine or something

247. like that

248.N: So probably you felt he's like a friend or probably your older brother something

249. like that?

250.Y: Yea, cuz sometimes he came to classroom and we had a lunch cuz in Japan we have

251. lunch in the classrooms inside the classroom so like sometime he sit with our with

252. our classmates and uh and uh talk...

253.N: talk with you.

254.Y: Yeah.

255.N: And in English.

256.Y: Yeah, he sits next to me and I talk with him and you know what I have no problem

257. when to when I talk with him at that time.

258.N: Okay

259.Y: And he and me and him

260.N: Umm that's good. So you think you just enjoyed talking with him? You don't think

261. you learned something from him?

262.Y: Uh...no I didn't realize where junior high school students and you know Japanese

263. students just study for not just for the exams or mainly this this this study English for

264. entering a nice university right? So, but at that time, I'm not that kinda person, you

265. know, I have to graduate from junior high, I tried to get into a nice university or

266. something like that, so I start English just for exams or for entering the nice

267. university but at the when I was a junior high school student, I never feel the like try

268. to or get try to improve my English, I like English, I gotta improve my English, I

269. never thought something like that I just I just the they English, there is a English in

270. my class right?

271.N: Uh-huh.

272.Y: With me with me.

273.N: Uh-huh.

274.Y: So, I just it's a natural thing right? There's a English. There's a English and teacher

275. from America, so right

276.N: Uh-huh.

277.Y: I'm I'm interested in international I mean the other country so I don't know. So, I

278. just talked with him.

279.N: Okay, you like the American teacher because you like studying with him and you

280. say you didn't like your Japanese teacher of English because you didn't lie

281. grammar.

282.Y: Well, yeah I don't I don't know I don't like.

283.N: You didn't like uh English used in classrooms

284.Y: uh...yeah I don't think so.

285.N: uh-huh, So, you say usually junior high school students study for exams.

286.Y: uh-huh.

287.N: Like to get into better universities.

288.Y: Yes I did

289.N: Is that true?

290.Y: It's true true.

291.N: So, you after you graduate your junior high school you go to high school?

292.Y: Yes yes.

293.N: And you had how to any exams or to get into highs cool?

294.Y: Yes uh...

295.N: You do.

296.Y: My university was no my high school was uh very competitive high school cuz

297. that's a very uh...like nice high school around my area, so ah...I took ah very very

298. hard entrance exam. So, so, for entering the high school I study I I start to study.

299. Ah... English as uh...uh...to get into nice high school, that my purpose was

300. changed I don't know

301.N: Okay when was it like...when

302.Y: I think I don't know

303.N: The the your purpose of studying English changed?

304.Y: With my third year, around I don't know around I don't know

305.N: So, after you try to focus on exams English you stop talking with your American

306. teacher?

307.Y: (long pause.) Umm...I think so I think she he left he left I don't know he has he has

308. ours I think at that time.

309.N: Okay.

310.Y: He was not staying our school just half a year or so.

311.N: There was no new American teachers?

312.Y: He...sometime no...another teacher came uh...I didn't talk with her she she she's

313. from uh the United States she I don't know Canada or not

314.N: uh-huh, but you didn't talk with her okay, so was the American teacher favorite

315. teacher of you? I mean who did you like the best out of your

316.Y: Ahhhhh!

317.N: teachers in your junior high school?

318.Y: My favorite teacher was the teacher who taught me...when I was a first grade of my

319. high and junior high school.

320.N: Uh-huh.

321.Y: He is not American teacher he was uh Japanese tea Japanese teacher he's Japanese

322. uh he taught us English in Japanese, but uh but uh...I think his voice's so like

323. sounds like uh American I don't know his his pronunciation was very nice so...

324.N: His English pronunciation was like an American.

325.Y: uh-huh you know low voice I don't know.

326.N: Okay.

327.Y: So he he he the way he teach he taught is like was like uh very you know very funny

328. like.

329.N: Uh-huh.

330.Y: When I he said that I.

331.N: Uh-huh.

332.Y: But the other teacher was lie I'm student, but he said I'm umm he focused on

333. pronounce like...

334. N:Oh uh-huh.

335.Y: Like umm...right?

336.N: Uh-huh.

337.Y: He's funny he was old but uh he was nice teacher I think he's funny.

338.N: He was good at teach how to pronounce just like a native speaker.

339.Y: Uh—huh uh-huh.

340.N: And you said when he was teaching you English you were.

341.Y: At first grade.

342.N: At first year student.

343.Y: Uh I don't know I don't remember that thinking right one and first and second

344. grade?

345.N: Uh-huh, so at that time, you liked English class.

346.Y: Not like I never focus...uh English was not my favorite class my favorite class was

347. social I don't know right the other history.

348.N: Social studies.

349.Y: Japanese and the the history world history or Japanese history, so well I don't

350. remember that you know whether I like English class or not.

351.N: Uh-huh.

352.Y: So, I don't know I didn't remember that.

353.N: So, you think you learned from pronunciation from him from the Japanese teacher.

354.Y: No no.

355.N: No?

356.Y: I never learned pronouncing Japanese, Japanese classroom.

357.N: You just felt his way of teaching was funny.

358.Y: Yeah but that was not big deal for me just funny yeah but you know what uh I have

359. no idea to use English, like now I you know I study in American university but now

360. at that time I never I have no idea about that right? So maybe I...I just enjoy I mean

361. not enjoy just ah taking class that's it I have no big uh like you know thought to.

362.N: So, you just liked the teacher, not the class.

363.Y: Not the class, English was not my favorite but teacher was my favorite.

364.N: So, uh...when you studied English for exam to get better high school.

365.Y: Uh-huh.

366.N: What kind of English did you study?

367.Y: It's grammar grammar.

368.N: Grammar just grammar.

369.Y: Also the grammar was very complicated at that time for me.

370.N: Okay.

371.Y: Like there's a half there's half I don't know how can I say.

372.N: Thick book?

373. Y: Yeah thick book and a lot of five hundred pages and two hundred hundred of pages I

374. don't know four hundred pages like you know and uh...I think I learned.

375. N: Uh-huh.

376. Y: I think...and uh that's it I think the grammar.

377. N: Uh-huh.

378. Y: yeah grammar cuz usually the entrance exam of for high school or university in

379. Japan was focus on the grammar.

380. N: Oh.

381. Y: How how how many how how can write uh English correctly or how read English

382. correctly that's the way or Japanese English education.

383. N: So, again no speaking no listening no interview?

384. Y: Uh-huh.

385. N: No interview?

386. Y: No not at all.

387. N: No?

388. Y: Okay.

389. N: So after junior high school, you got into a high school, what kind of high school

390. was it?

391. Y: Uh...the the my high school was very fam...uh...like...uh...nice nice high school

392. uh...from my from my.

393. N: Was it...uh...public or private?

394. Y: Public public...

395. N: Public uh-huh.

396. Y: I don't know the high school was the was uh the teacher in my high school focused

397. on how many how many students get into uh the nice university you know like

398. competitive university that's their topic and you know what,

399.N: Uh-huh.

400.Y: So so like you know yeah.

401.N: So to get into the high school you had to study a lot when you were in the third year

402. in junior high school?

403.Y: Yeah.

404.N: You studied hard?

405.Y: Right, right.

406.N: You went to kind of cram school something like that?

407.Y: No I I didn't I just study in my high school. Some of my friends went to the cram

408. school but I didn't I never in my life.

409.N: You never went to cram school in your life.

410.Y: Never.

411.N: Oh really.

412.Y: Oh okay so you studied by yourself.

413.N: Yeah, at school or home.

414.Y: You know when I was a high school student I didn't like to study, so...

415.N: Uh-huh.

416.Y: So, I didn't study in my home usually just the school.

417.N: So, when you were a high school student you didn't like English class again?

418.Y: Well, yeah I didn't like no I didn't like yeah.

419.N: Or you didn't like all the subjects in high school?

420.Y: I didn't focus on studying at that time I think cuz the university the high school was

421. like not kinda free school like just just uh teacher give us a lot of assignment and a

422. lot of task you know to get into university nice university and you know to get into

423. nice university that's their favorite place so...

424.N: So, you also had some universities you wanted to get into?

425.Y: No nothing uh when I was a I have dream to to study abroad after I finish my junior

426. high so...

427.N: Oh, really.

428.Y: So so that's why I take the high school cuz first I gotta I wanted to learn about the

429. Japanese thing Japanese history Japanese language perfectly before I studying

430. abroad so...

431.N: You mean you wanted to make your Japanese class?

432.Y: Uh I think you know before I studying more I study more I though that I believed

433. that that uh I gotta get into the nice uh nice high school.

434.N: Uh-huh.

435.Y: To learn.

436.N: Uh-huh.

437.Y: Uh a Japanese things cuz you know what cuz uh when I if you go to the if you gotta

438. the uh outside of Japan some foreign countries you they will see you as Japan

439. Japanese right? You gotta you have to you gotta need to explain about Japan

440. Japanese culture something like that.

441.N: Okay.

442.Y: So I imagined that when I study abroad I though that I need to understand Japan

443. more more.

444.N: Okay, okay.

445.Y: So I get into the nice university cuz I thought I believed that nice university teacher

446. told me a very nice thing about Japan.

447.N: About Japan okay that's why you first wanted to focus on something about Japan

448. not English as a subject.

449.Y: Uh you know what I didn't I have I try to I try to but I don't know why I could

450. have enough passion to study English.

451.N: To study English, but you had passion to study other subjects because you wanted to

452. know about English more no no about Japan more.

453.Y: Uh-huh yeah.

454.N: Okay.

455.Y: Yeah, so I didn't study English not so often I didn't study English very much when I

456. was a high school student.

457.N: Uh-huh okay so how was English classes in your high school? Was it any change

458. from uh compared to English classes in junior high school?

459.Y: I think almost same.

460.N: Almost same?

461.Y: But uh...

462.N: Almost same means the grammar vocabularies reading.

463.Y: Yeah.

464.N: Not communication?

465.Y: Uh-huh.

466.N: And you also had uh American English teacher in your high school?

467.Y: Uh uh I didn't remember every day is but I didn't talk with uh...

468.N: Oh really?

469.Y: Uh there is! Cuz I talk to her I think oral exams at that time and uh we got uh we

470. went to the every student gotta go to the to his her room and uh take uh kinda

471. conversation exam kinda she ask in English and you ask her in English.

472.N: Oh...

473.Y: I think I did I remember that.

474.N: So, you had her class.

475.Y: Yes yes yes.

476.N: She was kind of assistance of Japanese English teacher again or she led her own

477. class?

478.Y: Uh I don't remember she didn't lead a class but ah almost lead I think cuz my

479. Japanese teacher helped her help each other I think.

480.N: Uh-huh.

481.Y: There's a class kinda like a field I don't know I don't I didn't remember what kinda

482. class it is but uh there's kinda class uh uh there's a class uh American teacher and

483. Japanese teacher taught together at that time.

484.N: Uh-huh.

485.Y: So, I don't remember the topic but we had that kinda classroom and we did kinda

486. speech I think we did the speech or in English or I don't know listening watch a

487. movie or in English.

488.N: Uh-huh.

489.Y: Something like that we did so in the classroom in the class we have exam like

490. conversation or talking you know with uh American teacher and in English just in

491. English.

492.N: Uh-huh. So Japanese teacher kind of helped the American teacher?

493.Y: Yes.

494.N: Or was it fifty-fifty?

495.Y: Fifty-fifty, no sixty-forty, no mainly American teacher.

496.N: And what did the Japanese teacher do? During the class. How did she lead the

497. teacher help? For us?

498.Y: Sometimes uh helped the communicate each other between the students and the
499. American teacher.

500.N: So she translated her English into Japanese or vice versa. Okay, so how often did
501. you have that kind of class?

502.Y: Once a week.

503.N: Once a week.

504.Y: Or I don't know.

505.N: How many minutes?

506.Y: Uh my my high school class each class has uh...I don't know sixteen sixty five
507. minutes so one and a half minutes

508.N: So once a week sixty five minutes

509.Y: Uh-huh.

510.N: Did you have the kind of class for three years? Three years when you were a high
511. school students?

512.Y: Uh I don't know I think just a senior in high school did have the class.

513.N: Senior means second year senior?

514.Y: No senior is a third year.

515.N: Just the third year had that kinda class.

516.Y: I think so I didn't remember it now I think.

517.N: Okay.

518.Y: No no whole years just the just one year just senior year senior grade.

519.N: So uh besides that kind of class you also had uh English class taught by Japanese
520. English teachers.

521.Y: Uh-huh mainly that's the main class.

522.N: Mainly how were those classes taught by Japanese teacher?

523.Y: Well uh the there's a two types two types of English classes one is writing class in
524. which we learn the the vocabulary as we did in junior high and uh the other class is a
525. reading class the reading class is just read a text book and I think that their purpose I
526. don't know we just enjoy reading a book the reading book is uh we have text and we
527. just read and listen we just listen and speak out read out read out text book.

528.N: Uh-huh.

529.Y: I don't know it's a separate there's a two class.

530.N: So, reading class the purpose was to understand the texts and to pronounce as well?

531.Y: There's no pronounce but I remember some teacher teacher taught taught teach us

532. uh how to how to speak or pronounce but mainly we just read a textbook I almost

533. forgot where's difference between those class writing and reading writing is kinda

534. making compose a sentence or essays yeah the reading is just read right? So, maybe

535. my university, no my high school also grammar writing and reading book that's it.

536.N: Okay, so in the reading in the reading class you just read a texts and read out and in

537. the writing class you had to compose English sentences. Was it free writing or...

538.Y: No.

539.N: Did you have some Japanese sentences and then you just translate it into English?

540.Y: Uh I don't know I don't remember but that's uh umm the mainly translate Japanese

541. sentence into English sentences.

542.N: Sentences into English sentences, but you said you didn't like grammar and

543. vocabulary classes so how did you do in the class? Was it fun or you didn't like

544. the classes?

545.Y: Uh I didn't like the classes and also difficult so maybe I didn't do well in the class I

546. just sit in the classroom and listen the lecture I try to try to uh try to have interest in

547. the class, but...

548.N: Uh-huh.

549.Y: That's that's kinda different thing what I want so...

550.N: Uh-huh, and did you have exams?

551.Y: Yes

552.N: In school?

553.Y: That was very very great like 11 pages and there's a long long like uh the stories and

554. exams paper.

555.N: Eleven pages of exams.

556.Y: Oh, yeah and we read the whole sentences and then answered the questions but the

557. exam time was 60 1 hour or something.

558.N: Oh.

559.Y: So that's kinda hard so I couldn't get enough get nice score in the exam but that was

560. tough.

561.N: Uh-huh.

562.Y: Yeah and writing exam writing class exam was uh write what I think there's a

563. question there's a topic and I write down.

564.N: Anything you want?

565.Y: No no no just the topic what you mean.

566.N: There's no translation.

567.Y: But there's a topic so you gotta answer.

568.N: But that means you have write many English sentences.

569.Y: I didn't remember but for me.

570.N: Was it easy for you? Difficult?

571.Y: No no no I couldn't get uh nice score I said I said.

572.N: Uh-huh okay, so reading and writing both of the exams you didn't like that much

573. okay uh and then you said at that time you didn't really focus oh you said you

574. focused on some universities you wanted to go?

575.Y: At that time I the other students uh have some particular universities they wanted to

576. get in after they graduate, but I before I enter the the high school I had I wanted to

577. go the united states to study.

578.N: Oh right.

579.Y: and university cuz my major is no but my my subject were I have interest in was

580. uh the politics or the world international part so culture so uh...

581.N: Okay.

582.Y: So uh I try to study abroad after I graduate from high school so I want learn I mean

583. I don't know so I wanna do something I wanna learn something for for for the the

584. studying abroad so...

585.N: Uh-huh okay so at that time when you were a high school student you didn't think

586. about getting into university any more I mean university in Japan?

587.Y: Uh-huh no no.

588.N: But, your school and uh you know making students to get into those universities so

589. how did you you know deal with the thing you know there's a difference between

590. you and your school or your teacher.

591.Y: Yeah.

592.N: How did you do that?

593.Y: So, I lost my passion to study so I spent three years without doing almost nothing so

594. just ah get to school and go to I don't know go to just went to class.

595.N: Uh-huh.

596.Y: Every day.

597.N: Uh-huh.

598.Y: But still I have I wanted to go study abroad but I don't know how to do that so I just

599. take exam that's it I just spent for three years without any special things.

600.N: Okay and you talked about that you want to go abroad to study international

601. relations relationship? abroad to your teacher?

602.Y: Before once but...

603.N: When you were a high school student.

604.Y: At first when I was a 1st grade.

605.N: 1st grade.

606.Y: But uh he didn't say good thing to my my idea so...

607.N: What did he say?

608.Y: They said that the high school is for was for uh student who study to get into nice

609. university in Japan national university right?

610.N: Uh-huh.

611.Y: So, maybe that's not the uh that was not good answer I couldn't get nice good good

612. I expected so.

613.N: So he told you not to study abroad or he.

614.Y: Uh he said he said you can but uh no he said he couldn't agree with me.

615.N: Oh, and did you try to him?

616.Y: I just said okay and also my English ability not ability but uh my score of uh English

617. exam was terrible so I think he said uh you gotta learn English more.

618.N: Uh-huh.

619.Y: I know that b ut uh I think when you study something you need to some needs you

620. need read on to study passion but I lost passion cuz the teacher said no you can't so

621. when you study something I think you need subject but first purpose and then you

622. can study hard right? So you need a goal you gotta put the goal first and run there

623. right? Everybody do that right?

624.N: So you wanted to use English as an instrument to do something to study.

625.Y: Right.

626.N: Okay so you said okay even though your teachers told you you know he can't

627. recommend you to study abroad you said okay but you still doesn't change your

628. mind.

629.Y: Well I change I change my mind so I try to decide to take uh entrance exam.

630.N: Oh .

631.Y: Of Japanese national university.

632.N: Was it when you were at the first year first year student in high school?

633.Y: No I didn't decide at the time but I think after I don't know in my second grade.

634.N: In your second grade in high school you.

635.Y: I decide to take uh end of the second grade every student has to decide which

636. university will take.

637.N: Okay.

638.Y: So I also decide.

639.N: You talk about that you want to go abroad to study when you were the first year

640. student and then you decided to uh take exams for Japanese university when you

641. were at the second year right? Okay uh so when you decided to take uh the exam for

642. Japanese university you tried to study hard? English and other subjects?

643.Y: Yeah I did I did.

644.N: You did.

645.Y: But uh that's not in that so cuz uh I have uh stra I feel I felt I want get into the the

646. the university and the other countries not in Japan so maybe I even I decided to get

647. into Japanese university I have no passion to study so I didn't study at all not at all

648. but a little to get into you know to take uh you know.

649.N: Uh-huh.

650.Y: Like entrance exam.

651.N: So you didn't really study hard for the exams, but as your teacher told you to study

652. for year you just studied.

653.Y: So so but I as a result I couldn't get into the university Japanese university I took

654. two universities 1 university is international Christian university that's uh in the

655. university. Uh you can you can take uh uh class in English.

656.N: Uh-huh.

657.Y: Every classroom class they use teacher use English so uh that was uh attractive for

658. me and one more university is uh the Tsukuba university and the university has uh

659. exchange program with the other countries and I wanted to go to the Colombia

660. university at that time cuz Colombia university is very famous for international

661. studies so I...

662.N: Uh-huh.

663.Y: I decided to get into the Tsukuba university to go to American university as ah

664. exchange student.

665.N: Okay okay so you actually you took 2 universities one the first one was oh what

666. was the name? I don't remember.

667.Y: ICU international Christian university.

668.N: So were you oh no are you a Christian.

669.Y: No the university is very famous for English education so...

670.N: Oh that's why you wanted to go to the university.

671.Y: Yeah.

672.N: But actually you didn't want to go to any Japanese university.

673.Y: But I picked up better one.

674.N: Uh better one.

675.Y: Among them.

676.N: Or Tsukuba university where you can go to the united States as an exchange student.

677.Y: Cuz Tsukuba university has international relations major.

678.N: Okay.

679.Y: It's rare it's rare for national university in Japan so some private university has uh

680. international relations but national relations and international relations are very rare

681. national university.

682.N: So you wanted to go in the major of international relations.

683.Y: Uh-huh.

684.N: Why did you choose the major?

685.Y: Cuz I was I was interested in the the other countries and the politics also.

686.N: Uh-huh.

687.Y: Politics and culture and something like that I like that think I like the topic so I just

688. wanted to study but I have the dream to be a diplomat or something like that when I

689. was a junior high.

690.N: Japanese diplomat

691.Y: Yeah.

692.N: In Japan.

693.Y: Diplomat each country have diplomat right? So...

694.N: Okay.

695.Y: Or work for international uh like organization like hunted nation or something like

696. that as a staff I don't know organization.

697.N: Uh-huh.

698.Y: So I choose the topic for study that.

699.N: Uh-huh.

700.Y: So I just picked up those two university.

701.N: Okay and then after you graduated from your high school you took the universities.

702.Y: Oh no before I graduate from high school in Japan every student take university

703. before the graduation.

704.N: Uh-huh.

705.Y: Now I couldn't enter the university.

706.N: Oh you got the result before you graduated from your high school?

707.Y: Uh-huh.

708.N: Okay and then you didn't pass the exam.

709.Y: Unfortunately.

710.N: Okay when you were a high school student again you didn't go top any cram

711. school even though the exams were kinda hard and you didn't like.

712.Y: Some some students went to the cram school but the the the the high school my high

713. school teacher said that my university my high school is very nice university very

714. nice high school to get into the nice university that mean high school offer the

715. student uh nice curriculum.

716.N: Uh-huh.

717.Y: And so student don't need to go the students doesn't need to go to cram school.

718.N: Okay.

719.Y: That's their multiple.

720.N: Okay so students can study very hard and very well in the high school.

721.Y: Uh-huh.

722.N: Okay so after you knew the result from your universities what did you do? Why did

723. you talk about that to your teacher?

724.Y: Oh I just said them I decide to go the no I didn't talk anything to my teacher about

725. my about my future plan.

726.N: And then what did you do after you graduated from your high school?

727.Y: After I graduate? Uh I decided to study I decide to to study abroad to get into the

728. university in the United States directly not as a exchange student.

729.N: Uh-huh.

730.Y: So I just decided to study by myself to get into the university.

731.N: Okay so right after you graduated from your high school you came to the united

732. states?

733.Y: No not right after that I juts stayed 1 and half a year in Japan I study by myself I try

734. cuz you know you know when you get into the university in the united states you

735. need to take the SAT and the...

736.N: What is SAT?

737.Y: SAT is uh I don't know entrance exam entrance exam every student in the united

738. states or international students who wanna get into the Amercian university gotta

739. take the exam and the you need a high score right? So I tried to take the exam.

740.N: So that's like an entrance exam of Japanese universities.

741.Y: And then I also studied for TOEFL the university required me a TOEFL and uh also

742. I tried to study American subject subject like American like culture or history and

743. also and everything everything I tried to get ready for live outside of Japan so...

744.N: So those those subjects you were talking about was just to pass the SAT American

745. culture and English were in SAT?

746.Y: No no no no that was not in SAT I said it's separate thing so SAT for entrance exam

747. and the TOEFL is just for English and just other cultures I just tried to understand

748. what kinda what kinda country is united states I mean.

749.N: Uh-huh uh-huh cultural things to get used to the united states.

750.Y: Right right.

751.N: Okay how did you learn those things cuz that's a lot you know.

752.Y: Yeah so that was hard for me to about the those thing but uh I for about English I

753. couldn't speak English at all and I didn't study English at all in my high school so I

754. think my English ability I could understand grammar I think my English in junior

755. high was very nice.

756.N: Oh.

757.Y: When I was a high school student, my English didn't improve during the time

758. during the period so I couldn't speak couldn't speak couldn't write so...

759.N: But...

760.Y: So first my goal I gotta improve my English so I sometime I watch the movie in

761. English I read the English book the book which is written in English or write uh

762. diary.

763.N: Uh-huh.

764.Y: Every day.

765.N: In English.

766.Y: In English I I thought what I need is listening speaking listening those three things

767. right? So for writing skills I write a diary and uh for listening. I watch a movie in

768. English and listening uh no no no speaking speaking was very hard for me. I

769. couldn't I couldn't cuz I have no friends who speak English so I...

770.N: Uh-uh.

771.Y: So, I tried to do something cuz I gotta improve my English skill, so only the thing I

772. could do was just read out my my book I bought in the in the book store like English

773. book I speak out I just read I just read out.

774.N: Uh-huh.

775.Y: And pronounce learn how pronounce how to speak fluently

776.N: Yeah so uh I'm just wondering if you cuz you said you your grammar skills were

777. good enough but you said you didn't like class English classes in junior high and

778. high school because you didn't like grammar and vocabularies so but still you could

779. understand those uh...

780.Y: I think so I couldn't.

781.N: Uh-huh.

782.Y: First, I couldn't understand English but I tried to understand my English skills was

783. not good at that time that was not enough to study abroad.

784.N: Uh-huh, so you probably when your grammar book.

785.Y: Uh... no.

786.N: Was used before?

787.Y: Uh no what you mean?

788.N: Like...

789.Y: Oh yeah I didn't I did I did but grammar I did.

790.N: Because you need to learn grammar.

791.Y: But I already know grammar right?

792.N: Uh-huh.

793.Y: I didn't like the class but I was in the classroom so I know what is English

794. grammar right?

795.N: Oh okay.

796.Y: But the thing I need to learn more was listening writing and speaking right?

797.N: And reading.

798.Y: Cuz in Japanese English education, those three things writing speaking and and uh

799. listening is not uh popular like...

800.N: But...

801.Y: Grammar is popular but the others is not popular.

802.N: Yeah right so reading was fine with you because you knew some grammar.

803.Y: Ahhh no no cuz I have less poor vocabulary at that time so I couldn't I bought I

804. bought book.

805.N: English books.

806.Y: Yeah, but the books was the uh very difficult but I bought kinda political science

807. book.

808.N: Uh-huh.

809.Y: So, inside of the book I found a lot of had the different word uh and I couldn't

810. understand at all, so I just just uh you know read a book but I couldn't understand uh

811. meaning of uh...

812.N: Okay.

813.Y: But, I did I did try to understand try to understand research voca read uh look uh

814. look at uh dictionary.

815.N: Oh.

816.Y: And uh...

817.N: You tried to find uh all the meaning in the text in the in the English book.

818.Y: Yeah first.

819.N: You try to understand everything.

820.Y: Of course.

821.N: And you use your dictionary all the time.

822.Y: Yeah.

823.N: Really.

824.Y: But after that I get tired to use the dictionary so I stop to use the dictionary I just

825. read the book without using dictionary.

826.N: How could you do that? Was it...

827.Y: I just read the gain gain some usual gradually I could understand I getting

828. understand the contents of that.

829.N: Okay you when you read many times you know the same sentences you kind of

830. guess the meaning.

831.Y: Kind of guess guess yeah yeah.

832.N: And you finally kind of get the meaning.

833.Y: And I changed the book and more easy one, so I...

834.N: Uh-huh.

835.Y: I step up for easy one and gradually hard one.

836.N: Like the first one was story.

837.Y: For elementary school I think English elementary American elementary school

838. students and then come high school and then university students.

839.N: Okay okay so when you were studying English you know at first English by

840. yourself you already knew how to read the English book?

841.Y: Ummm.

842.N: At the last it was not difficult for you. You could manage it was that okay?

843.Y: Uh.

844.N: Okay so how was writing cuz you said in high school you had uh writing exam.

845.Y: Uh-huh.

846.N: And you had to compose many English sentences about one topic and you said it.

847. was difficult but you could write something right?

848.Y: No, I didn't.

849.N: Oh, you couldn't.

850.Y: I just used easy sentences so I get very bad great for it right? So...

851.N: Okay.

852.Y: I think my the other classmates could do but I couldn't.

853.N: Okay so you tried to learn writing by yourself and how.

854.Y: I think you know what I try to learn the writing skill but uh I couldn't I couldn't do

855. well so until I studying abroad I my writing skill was uh was not improved enough

856.N: Oh.

857.Y: So I couldn't at that time at that moment.

858.N: Uh-huh. but you said you tried to keep an keep a diary in English.

859.Y: But uh I used a lot of text uh dictionary anytimes.

860.N: Anytimes.

861.Y: And the sentence was very very short so that was not I mean that was not didn't

862. work.

863.N: Oh didn't work well? Okay but uh at least you could compose some sentences.

864.Y: No I try to I could make a sentence but I couldn't make kinda long long like a essay

865. or paper.

866.N: Okay okay.

867.Y: Cuz I though that uh I knew uh ability to write a essay 2 page or 3 page essay to get

868. into the university right? So I try to get the ability but I couldn't I try to do by myself

869. so that was hard for me.

870.N: Okay how about listening.

871.Y: Listening listening skill was also hard thing but I the only thing I could do was just

872. listening English movie or listening I bought a CD.

873.N: Uh-huh.

874.Y: In the book store uh the CD was there's uh uh the the radio news in English I think

875. American English English radio news so I just listen the CDs.

876.N: Uh-huh.

877.Y: The things.

878.N: And then at first you understood what the CD said?

879.Y: No no no no at all at all.

880.N: You didn't?

881.Y: But I continued to listen

882.N: Even though you didn't understand the meaning.

883.Y: Of course cuz I have no nothing the other way the other way to understand improve

884. English I didn't come up with the other way so I just read listen listen the story you

885. know you know I don't know listen the movie or radio program many time again

886. again again again.

887.N: Yeah, that's a good way to improve you know your listening skills, but I also had

888. some problems with my listening skills and I tried to listen to some native speakers'

889. voice voice but at first I of course I didn't understand the meaning at all but at first I

890. didn't even know when you know where is the you know like separation between

891. words and words like I and I and am you know or like I and like for me it was one

892. word.

893.Y: Uh-huh me too.

894.N: So at first you were just like that?

895.Y: Yes I couldn't I could find the words I already know but it's very few I couldn't

896. make a sentence I mean I couldn't understand as a sentence. I just get the word

897. each word but I couldn't get uh you know the whole sen you know each sentences I

898. though that mean I could get the particular words but I couldn't get the whole idea.

899.N: Okay.

900.Y: What they are talking or...

901.N: So you just understood or listened to some important words.

902.Y: Not important words the words I already know so like apple or orange like that

903. thing.

904.N: Okay okay okay.

905.Y: For me the movie was like blah blah orange blah blah apple blah blah.

906.N: Yeah yeah I know I know.

907.Y: So maybe I couldn't understand what what was that you know I mean.

908.N: Uh-huh.

909.Y: It's hard.

910.N: Okay but gradually your listening skills kind of improved?

911.Y: I think so I think so I couldn't understand very low its sentences but uh I could

912. understand the whole uh the meaning you know the story at music movie or the CD I

913. mean gradually but still it's gradually so hard for me but uh yeah compared with

914. first time first time I start to get ready for to studying abroad in the United states my

915. listening ability was uh kind of improved.

916.N: Uh-huh okay so uh what did you say about speaking? What did you do?

917.Y: Uh speaking speaking was I just read read out the book.

918.N: The English book you bought.

919.Y: Or I decide to do uh read out the each of one article.

920.N: Uh-huh.

921.Y: Uh English news paper I bought English news paper in the book store.

922.N: Okay.

923.Y: I get it and I I read put many time and uh I I focused on pronounce.

924.N: Uh-huh.

925.Y: I couldn't I try to understand the contents of the meaning but I think first I I

926. just focus on the how fluently I can read the...

927.N: Uh-huh.

928.Y: I didn't focus on the getting the meaning of that how to pronounce or how to

929. fluently speak out.

930.N: Okay.

931.Y: I just try to you know practice how to use a mouth to speak English cuz uh I I think

932. how to use the mouth for Japanese Japanese speaking and English is very different

933. so I try to you know mouth get used to speak uh English.

934.N: Okay but you said at that time you didn't have uh your friend who were English

935. native speakers and you also said you focused on English pronunciation you know

936. or the movement of your mouth to pronounce better but how did you you know learn

937. how to pronounce better or how to move your mouth cuz you didn't have native

938. speakers around you.

939.Y: I don't know uh cuz you can find in Japanese textbook or uh dictionary you can

940. find uh the pronunciation sign.

941.N: Okay signals? Uh—huh.

942.Y: Pronunciation signals? I don't know that's each word next besides each word next to

943. each word, so I I can know the the what is the correct pronounce.

944.N: So, you knew how to read the signals. How did you learn that?

945.Y: I started that kinda thing way from my junior high junior high study.

946.N: In class?

947.Y: No not in class cuz uh when I start to study for my entrance exam for the high

948. school I the decide to study by myself and I read the once.

949.N: Uh-huh.

950.Y: Once I some I don't know with some someday I just read the textbook and uh I

951. though that uh if I couldn't speak out I mean if I couldn't read out if I can't

952. pronounce this word even if I already know the meaning of word that meaningless

953. cuz I thought English is a communication way right? So, that me for me so I though

954. that uh I gotta study how to pronounce it like uh I should be able to speak out.

955.N: Uh-huh.

956.Y: The words not just just understanding words meaning of that.

957.N: Uh-huh right.

958.Y: So, I start to check the every time check the pronunciation signal every time every

959. each word.

960.N: Uh-huh okay.

961.Y: And I continue those things until I graduate from high school and after I graduate

962. from high school I still continue to do that and also now I do the same way.

963.N: Uh-uh but I think that's kind of difficult to learn how to pronounce according to the

964. signals pronunciation signals.

965.Y: I think it's not hard I think.

966.N: Cuz there is a picture of mouth.

967.Y: Yeah there there is.

968.N: On the book.

969.Y: There is...

970.N: There is? So you look at those pictures to and imitate the you know the mouth the

971. shape of the mouth.

972.Y: Yeah I think so or there's a example of the pronounce so like you know there is a

973. word like same a same r has different way right? And there's a example of the words

974. example words of so sometime I can check the pronunciation in movie it's kinda

975. play or card or like you know you can check movie inside the movie cuz those

976. words often come in so often I check movie so you don't need to worry about how to

977. correct word I mean pronunciation.

978.N: Okay, so at first you your dictionary to see what kind of shape of mouth you should

979. do when you pronounce this signal of pronunciation of the words and then when you

980. are still not sure you got online and watched some movie you know watch a movie

981. and something and then you check the word and then you check the pronunciation

982. you know pronounce by native English speaker.

983.Y: But, but uh... usually I never check sometime check the pronunciation on the movie

984. but I that's very rare.

985.N: Okay sometime.

986.Y: Sometime I didn't do the when uh I just cuz I you know I think pronunciation signal

987. very useful that's not hard to understand once you get the idea.

988.N: Uh-huh.

989.Y: Cuz I continue to the same thing from my junior high school study so for me that

990. was not hard thing I can understand I can imitate the pronunciation signals for me

991. that's not kinda hard thing so...

992.N: Uh-huh so you just you know at that first time you started to learn those signals,

993. first was of course very difficult cuz you didn't have any instruction about that so

994. first you thought the picture of the shape of the mouth and then you know imitated

995. it, imitated the shape of the mouth to pronounce some words?

996.Y: Uh...umm...yeah but that's you know what I don't know but I couldn't I couldn't

997. imitate each pronunciation signal.

998.N: Uh-huh.

999.Y: Uh...if you do it that's not hard to imitate pronunciation signal cuz I don't know but

1000. I did the same thing for a long time so...

1001.N: Okay okay because I'm wondering cuz you know you're from Japan and I

1002. know that some people who speak which is "Japanese English" you know their

1003. English is sometimes you know with so many accents of Japanese, but your

1004. English doesn't seem to have lots of Japanese accents and I'm wondering why

1005. and you said you focused the English pronunciation when you study English

1006. by yourself and then you also said uh when you were junior high school

1007. student you already started to study how to pronounce how to read the

1008. pronunciation signals is that usual thing in Japan? Like all the junior junior

1009. high school students can read the signals?

1010.Y: No.

1011.N: No? Just you?

1012.Y: Cuz uh you know usually you know Japanese people uh...show how the

1013. pronunciation in Japanese in Japanese language so like the pronunciation signal

1014. was written kinda like alphabet alphabetical.

1015.N: Uh-huh I know.

1016.Y: But in junior high the dictionary pronunciation way was written in Japanese

1017. Japanese katakana or hiragana way so just...

1018.N: Okay.

1019.Y: If you speak use that way your English would be like Japanese way, so

1020.N: Okay.

1021.Y: That's why.

1022.N: Oh.

1023.Y: That's why I think.

1024.N: So you mean.

1025.Y: Few students can few students care about uh the pronunciation signal usually I

1026. think I don't know about the others but...

1027.N: You mean usually your textbooks when your text books talk about the

1028. pronunciation or some new words, it says the pronunciation in Japanese.

1029.Y: When I was a high junior high high school student the textbook show as a

1030. pronunciation signal.

1031.N: Okay so usually you pronounce apple then usual Japanese students how do they

1032. pronounce it.

1033.Y: I don't know appuru appuru or some...

1034.N: Appuru.

1035.Y: But you know what lot of Japanese students pronounce that way the reason is

1036. roman roman words romaji we say romaji that's roman words cuz jap when

1037. Japanese people get the passport you gotta write down your name romaji roman

1038. words and uh... that way if you use a roman words like uh there's uh I don't

1039. know just very close to Japanese pronunciation.

1040.N: Okay.

1041.Y: So, we can and every Japanese student elementary school student learn how to

1042. read and write uh roman words so maybe that's why every students gotta

1043. knowledge of words our pronounce the alphabet.

1044.N: Okay so...

1045.Y: That's the way which is very close to Japanese pronunciation, so after that they

1046. get into junior high so when first they find some grammatical come American or

1047. western word was alphabet.

1048.N: Uh-huh.

1049.Y: They already know how to pronounce words as a Japanese way roman words.

1050.N: Uh-huh.

1051.Y: So, they read out like Japanese way so maybe even they don't know the

1052. pronunciation signals they already know how to uh read uh uh like the American

1053. you know English words or so.

1054.N: Okay so you said first students learn how to write and read roman characters

1055. and that's something similar to Japanese pronunciation and because they are

1056. used to roman characters and read that's why their English comes closer to you

1057. know Japanese pronunciation of English right?

1058.Y: Yeah kind of yeah there's the other factor also but one of the factor one of the

1059. reason is that...so if I focus on the the pronunciation signal.

1060.N: Uh-huh.

1061.Y: I I you know to the other way I choose the other way I didn't use the you know

1062. like from I don't know but...

1063.N: Uh-huh, so okay let's back to the story we were talking about uh when you

1064. were studying English by yourself you learned speaking how to speak English

1065. by yourself according to oh no you you said you read your English book aloud

1066. and you focused on the pronunciation.

1067.Y: Yes.

1068.N: And how to move your mouth.

1069.Y: I forget one thing uh, when I was a high school student uh I like the president

1070. Kennedy who is the American president around 1960s and uh I like him and uh

1071. what I watched a TV program about him and and the TV program they the he

1072. speak he spoke there's a video about him and he just did a speech inside of that

1073. and uh and that was a very nice words for me and uh so I I uh... imitate him and

1074. I watched I take a video of the program TV program I imitate him many day

1075. many time many time uh no cuz you know what since I was a child I liked the

1076. imitate the theme song of the TV anime.

1077.N: Okay.

1078.Y: So, after uh after no uh two or three month.

1079.N: Uh-huh.

1080.Y: I every time I could I could uh sing uh any Japanese animation theme song,so I

1081. like the imitation things so at the time when I watched the president Kennedy

1082. speech I imitate his English.

1083.N: Uh-huh.

1084.Y: I think now I still remember some words some sentences so how many times

1085. speak uh imitate when I was a high school I think 2nd 3rd grade.

1086.N: Uh-huh.

1087.Y: and after that you know I my English pronunciation was almost like uh different

1088. changed.

1089.N: Changed from what? Changed.

1090.Y: From before junior high or the other.

1091.N: Oh how did it change? So was it like Kennedy Kennedy.

1092.Y: Yeah but...

1093.N: Kennedy speech.

1094.Y: I already know how to pronounce words right?

1095.N: Uh-huh.

1096.Y: Not the play in Japan Japanese students say I play the guitar I prai za gitar.

1097.N: Uh-huh.

1098.Y: But according his pronunciation I play the guitar no I play the za gita so

1099.N: Uh-huh uh-huh okay so...

1100.Y: You can apply the the other words once you learn how to pronounce the each

1101. words.

1102.N: So when was it? When did you imitate Kennedy's speech?

1103.Y: Uh the second grade.

1104.N: The...

1105.Y: Of my high school.

1106.N: High school okay so you mean before that your English pronunciation was like

1107. other Japanese students? I mean other Japanese English accent.

1108.Y: Different.

1109.N: Different.

1110.Y: From them.

1111.N: But after you started to imitate his speech your pronunciation totally changed

1112. and even though.

1113.Y: No not because of the speech right? But uh but once of the factor of that right?

1114.N: Yeah I know but...

1115.Y: I think I did the same thing life in school you know what that the Kennedy's

1116. speech was one of my example of my imitating things.

1117.N: Uh-huh.

1118.Y: I already imitating things when I was uh watched already I told you.

1119.N: Oh yeah yeah.

1120.Y: You know uh no the educational TV.

1121.N: English education TV.

1122.Y: for the children.

1123.N: You were imitating some sounds.

1124.Y: I do the same thing again again again and again and English ability especially

1125. speaking ability not improve one day or two day you gotta continue the same

1126. thing again and again and again and then.

1127.N: When you were a kid.

1128.Y: I think so I think so.

1129.N: You started to imitate songs and you kind of continued to do the same thing

1130. again and again.

1131.Y: Yeah yeah.

1132.N: And finally imitated Mr. Kennedy speech.

1133.Y: I still continue that thing.

1134.N: Okay.

1135.Y: And uh so.

1136.N: Okay so even though you sometimes you don't understand you know what he

1137. talked about in speech.

1138.Y: No

1139.N: You didn't?

1140.Y: Uh, no but uh there's uh...

1141.N: Subtitles?

1142.Y: You know what like uh yes subtitles on that Japanese subtitle and uh the screen

1143. like the sound but.

1144.N: Okay

1145.Y: But, I thought that I liked the words so I like and listen again and again and

1146. speaking out.

1147.N: okay, so...

1148.Y: that's a process of learning of English.

1149.N: yeah okay so even though Mr. Kennedy didn't say I like to play the guitar in his

1150. speech you just applied those some sounds of native speakers to other sentences.

1151.Y: uh-huh.

1152.N: and then you kind of created to be like you as you're now that's great

1153.Y: but I you know what English is like that many time many time every time apply

1154. you can apply so I applied my the the English pronunciation signal

1155. pronunciation signal for any ward the other words once you got you know what

1156. so that's not hard thing you know.

1157.N: okay but still you said before you started to imitate Mr. Kennedy speech, your

1158. pronunciation was Japanese.

1159.Y: No.

1160.N: No?

1161.Y: Cuz I already did the same thing before many time many time sometime I

1162. watched English TV.

1163.N: So.

1164.Y: I don't know I never focused on English studies, but I already start kinda

1165. imitating English speaking.

1166.N: When you were very young

1167.Y: Yeah yeah yeah right and I didn't stop the one I did the same thing again and

1168. again.

1169.N: So, your English kind of changed oh kind of same or probably only get better

1170. especially pronunciation maybe listening as well?

1171.Y: listening listening was not I think.

1172.N: but pronunciation was

1173.Y: yeah right

1174.N: okay

1175.N: So, you went to Seattle and where did you go in Seattle?

1176.Y: Where?

1177.N: Where, you know what did you do in Seattle?

1178.Y: Uh I uh...

1179.N: You went to a university in Seattle?

1180.Y: I went to uh a Seattle central community college, it's a two year college. I study

1181. there two years including the ESL classes I took a two three quarters ESL

1182. classes, so that's uh nine months.

1183.N: Uh-huh

1184.Y: And at the same time I st... I took uh some college class regular classes

1185.N: Uh-huh.

1186.Y: Okay, so then you know uh you studied English by yourself you know very

1187. hard I know that but you know you had you still had some problems with your

1188. English in Seattle.

1189.N: Yeah, I think I have cuz I didn't get any uh special education about English

1190. before I get into ESL.

1191.Y: Uh-huh.

1192.N: ESL in Seattle was the my first experience to study uh English.

1193.Y: Uh-huh.

1194.N: As as kinda second language.

1195.Y: Yeah, was it uh something different from English education you have you had

1196. ever experienced before?

1197.N: Uh-huh.

1198.Y: How was it different?

1199. uh the I took I did we did some kind or speaking co speaking studies speaking

1200. English studies in Japan I just read and writing uh very little speaking studies

1201. but uh in Seattle ESL classes, usually we gotta say something in the classroom

1202. in English so every every st every teacher just used uh English so I gotta speak

1203. English anytime whenever I have question.

1204.N: So, your teacher then was a native speaker of English?

1205.Y: Uh-huh but some there's a one teacher who was a Korean but she came here

1206. very early uh for her her life I think she was five or sixty years old so maybe

1207. every student every teacher was were uh the the native can be said native.

1208.N: Okay, so how about your classmates? All of your classmates were from Japan or

1209. from various countries? A lot of country for example? What kind of countries?

1210.Y: Uh, Japanese Taiwanese and uh Hong Kong and uh and uh Turkish.

1211.N: Uh-huh.

1212.Y: Russia.

1213.N: Uh-huh.

1214.Y: And so on.

1215.N: Uh-huh. Okay, uh so you communicated with them in English.

1216.Y: Yes.

1217.N: How did you feel then?

1218.Y: Uh basically I thought that's grate at first time.

1219.N: Uh-huh, no problems? A little bit?

1220.Y: There was a problem cuz English was is not our first language each other so

1221. maybe they they also English was uh second language for them and me too so

1222. maybe that was very hard sometime there was a misunderstood

1223. misunderstanding between each other.

1224.N: Uh-huh of course yeah so uh did you where did you live in Seattle in the some

1225. dormitory or did you live by yourself or did you home stay?

1226.Y: Uh I was my my my house was kinda apartment so I have my own room and I

1227. have I didn't have any roommate there.

1228.N: Oh.

1229.Y: So, I just lived by myself in the apartment my room.

1230.N: So, do you rent the apartment you talked with the office in English right? Was it

1231. difficult right?

1232.Y: No no no, at first time there was before I came to the United States I call uh I

1233. contact with the coordinator the uh kinda international student help center,

1234. there's a company. Kind of agency who runned Japanese so I talked with them

1235. and they choose some apartment and I decide the apartment I live, and uh so

1236. they already get contract, so that was not hard for me.

1237.N: Okay, so did you enjoy the life in Seattle then?

1238.Y: Uh-huh.

1239.N: Okay, so at that time you were taking ESL classes you didn't take uh college

1240. classes?

1241.Y: Just ESL classes, at first time I took uh just one college class I mean that class

1242. was for international students my first quarter but second semester I believe

1243. that I remember that I took a class uh regular college students second semester

1244. for me.

1245.N: Okay, so how was the you know college level class? It was pretty different from

1246. ESL classes or you know you know very different from Japanese English

1247. classes? How did you feel then, you know like you were taking college classes

1248. with the native speakers, right? Then was it very difficult for you? Or you just

1249. managed it?

1250.Y: Yes, yes, it was hard for me

1251.N: But you you know you understood the class the

1252. professor?

1253.Y: Yes, uh no uh in for the for class for the international students, it

1254. was uh understandable, but the other class the the real college regular college

1255. class was hard for me it's hard to understand they just speak fast.

1256.N: So, you mean the classes for international students are ESL classes?

1257.Y: Uh-huh.

1258.N: ESL.

1259.Y: What's that?

1260.N: Oh, you said uh classes for international students were not that hard and those

1261. classes were ESL classes?

1262.Y: No, not ESL classes it's a regular class but the International students could take

1263. the class.

1264.N: What kind of classes?

1265.Y: Uh psychology psychology and humanity.

1266.N: So, you were taking those classes for international students and American

1267. students.

1268.Y: Uh-huh.

1269.N: So, how about the other classes what was your major in the college in the

1270. community college?

1271.Y: Usually uh in community college nobody has uh like exact uh major study but

1272. uh there there preparing for studying at the the the for fourth university after

1273. they transfer there so in the community college they they have they have they

1274. did they choose uh kind of their major.

1275.N: Uh-huh.

1276.Y: But, that was not the exa I mean strict I mean the major was more like more

1277. broad one, so kinda we just study general study there.

1278.N: Uh-huh, okay, uh... so before you know before going to study abroad, you said

1279. you were studying English by yourself like you know uh reading English

1280. sentences loud you know voice did you keep doing those you know studying

1281. English by yourself after you went to Seattle? You kept the studies by yourself

1282. still?

1283.Y: Uh, I try to I try to so my first in my first year Seattle I try to uh write uh the the

1284. diary in English or and uh I just speak I read aloud uh the kind the articles and

1285. newspaper every night.

1286.N: Uh-huh. Okay, so you think you improved your English while you were in

1287. Seattle?

1288.Y: I try to.

1289.N: Yeah, and then uh community college students usually transfer into uh

1290. four year college?

1291.Y: Uh-huh.

1292.N: Right? And then you cam here?

1293.Y: Yes.

1294.N: After you graduated from community college, so how was it you know now you

1295. study here college level but before you were in Seattle community college so

1296. you didn't have many problems here you know with your classes you know

1297. communicating with American students?

1298.Y: No, I don't think so cuz uh in when I was in Seattle I have a lot of difficulties

1299. and uh kinda hardship and language hardship difficulties there and I think I

1300. could overcome those things there but still I have some uh uh difficulties here in

1301. IUP I feel that like here.

1302.N: What kind of difficulties?

1303.Y: I don't know cuz we use a special term special words in my uh my uh majors so

1304. maybe my major study is political science and political science has a lot of

1305. difficult words and sometimes it's very difficult to understand so I have few

1306. backgrounds uh my English. No, my background is Japanese so maybe when

1307. we talk about American history or something American politics I have few I feel

1308. difficulties to talk with them. I think my language skill is not bad but it might be

1309. not enough to talk with them my experience is not enough to talk with them so

1310. here you uh understand what your professor talks about but you sometimes still

1311. have difficulties because your teacher your professor use different difficult

1312. words technical terms?

1313.N: And also background knowledge you need knowledge to talk in English. What

1314. kind of knowledge?

1315.Y: I mean I said that American history American politics.

1316.N: Okay uh now you have here American friends.

1317.Y: Uh-huh.

1318.N: Do you can you communicate with them without any problems?

1319.Y: I think so, but uh still I have cuz we have different backgrounds so they there's

1320. a lot of American music American movie but for me before I cam here I

1321. watched Japanese movie Japanese program right? So maybe it's very hard uh

1322. language skill was uh enough but at the you know the situation the background

1323. you know the the less information about the United about the U.S. American

1324. society can be the difficulties when I talk with them

1325.N: Okay so you mean you don't have uh many topics to talk with them about cuz

1326. uh if you know a little uh if you know if you already know a topic I think that's

1327. easy to understand in English cuz you already know what it is in Japanese,

1328. right? So, maybe most important thing for me right now is knowledge or

1329. background about American society. Uh-huh then you think you can

1330. communicate with your friends you classmates your professors more smoothly

1331. and better?

1332.Y: I think so I think so a language is also anytime comes from comes with uh the I

1333. mean the history common history common kinda cultures

1334.N: So, uh...now you still focus on you know your studying English, you know uh

1335. in the special way like reading aloud or you just focus on you know getting

1336. some more knowledge about American societies? Which do you focus on here?

1337. Both? Or

1338.Y: Both.

1339.N: Both, so you still keep studying English by yourself?

1340.Y: Uh-huh.

1341.N: So, here you take ESL classes?

1342.Y: No.

1343.N: No, so how how long did you take ESL classes? So when you were in Seattle,

1344. you were taking one, two?

1345.Y: Uh nine months.

1346.N: Okay.

1347.Y: Exactly eight months I don't know I didn't count before, and then you just

1348. regular classes with American students but before that, before that well I was

1349. taking ESL class ESL class, I was taking regular class college class.

1350.N: Okay okay so at first you were taking only ESL classes but uh a little after a

1351. little while you started to take both of the classes?

1352.Y: Well, ESL classes and regular classes. I I I was not taking only just ESL classes

1353. I never cuz very first time I also I already take kinda college class.

1354.N: Okay. Even for just international students.

1355.Y: Huh-huh.

1356.N: Cuz we just learned psychology there.

1357.Y: Okay, so anytime cuz uh the ESL system in the Seattle central uh we have six

1358. grade uh six levels and after four levels uh students could take classes regular

1359. classes taking ESL classes at the same time.

1360.N: Okay.

1361.Y: So, and then I get into the fourth level at first. Uh-huh, so maybe I could take

1362. that one English and ESL classes.

1363.N: Okay.

1364.Y: So, I constantly take uh college class. So, at the time you went to Seattle your

1365. English level was not that low so you could take you know both of the classes

1366. you know ESL classes and regular classes.

1367.N: Oh, that's good.

1368.Y: I think lot of students from Japan take uh from four or...

1369.N: Okay.

1370.Y: After they graduate from high school so they a lot of students take college class.

1371.N: Uh-huh. Even if they feel like their English is not enough, okay so uh now or

1372. when you were in Seattle how much English did you speak? You know every

1373. day?

1374.Y: Uh...

1375.N: You, I you spoke Japanese too? You did?

1376.Y: Oh yeah.

1377.N: Or you speak Japanese too? Right now?

1378.Y: Uh-huh. Yeah I think so.

1379.N: So, you know how much English and how much Japanese you speak when you

1380. were in Seattle? In Seattle first? In Seattle first?

1381.Y: Uh, 70 percent -80% was Japanese and 20 %-30% was English

1382.N: Oh, even though you were in English speaking country you were you know you

1383. spoke Japanese a lot more than English.

1384.Y: Uh-huh.

1385.N: Why?

1386.Y: Why? Cuz uh we can we could uh meet a lot of uh Japanese students in Seattle,

1387. in Seattle also here it many in the IUP even there's not much not many students

1388.N: Oh, so even here you speak only thirty % of English.

1389.Y: Oh no no here like 60%.

1390.N: 60% of English.

1391.Y: But, uh yeah 60% or 50%.

1392.N: Uh, when you were you know with Japanese students Japanese friends you only

1393. speak Japanese with them?

1394.Y: Uh-huh.

1395.N: Only Japanese.

1396.Y: I think Japanese students even they decide to speak only English I think some

1397. international students do that but that's very hard thing to continue to do this cuz

1398. they feel lonely they feel homesick and they feel comfortable to speak their own

1399. language so it's very hard to continue to speak English their own students from

1400. their own the same countries so you sometimes try to speak English with

1401. Japanese friends but you said it's difficult to keep speaking English but you

1402. know what Seattle and IUP I think I I sometime I try to but usually I am not I

1403. don't try to speak English with my own country students I mean students from

1404. same country to me.

1405.N: No?

1406.Y: Not a lot not much.

1407.N: Uh-huh okay so how long will you stay in IUP? After now? When are you

1408. graduating?

1409.Y: Uh, next December I mean this December December this year.

1410.N: Okay so two more semester this semester.

1411.Y: Yeah, two months including summer session. Okay this semester and two more

1412. semesters. Yeah.

1413.N: Okay, so will you expect something about your English after now? Until you

1414. graduate, you think you will improve your English here you think.

1415.Y: Yeah, I think so...

1416.N: So, you think you will keep studying English by yourself?

1417.Y: Yes, but that's not uh yeah I think so but the thing is I think my interest shifts

1418. from English to my own major so maybe I try to improve my English in the my

1419. own field the political world that's our related the political science so that's

1420. important thing for me cuz I gotta my English more useful so you know just

1421. speak well read we'll that's that's important thing for for my international no no

1422. no my life but now I need more academic thing now my goal is academic thing

1423. not English expert my my goal was is to be uh political science expert not

1424. English expert right? So English was you know the very most important thing

1425. when I was in ESL classes but now not good thing even after 2 or 3 years later

1426. you still focus on Eng just English that's not good so maybe we goita improve

1427. develop you know ourself myself so maybe uh I think we gotta getta gotta

1428. change my our goal my interest from uh just English to my more special uh...

1429.N: Uh-huh.

1430.Y: My uh major field.

1431.N: Okay, so uh after you graduate from IUP what do you think you will do here?

1432. uh after I wanna go graduate school here? Or yeah the united states

1433. in the political science major.

1434.Y: Uh-huh.

1435.N: And after that you wanna work here.

1436.Y: Uh these days uh before I wanna get a job here but these days I'm wondering

1437. and in Japan is also fun to get uh worth.

1438.N: Uh-huh. So, you're still thinking.

1439.Y: Yes.

1440.N: But, at least you want to go to graduate school here.

1441.Y: Uh-huh.

1442.N: And you want to focus on your major political science rather than just English

1443.Y: Uh-huh.

1444.N: (long pause.) Okay thank you very much.

1445.Y: Thank you very much.