

Brittany Tenecela

ENG1101

Unit 1: Education Narrative Essay

Word Count: 1,008

Date: October 19th, 2022

Title: Language Barrier From A Young Age

Ever since I can remember I've always had some kind of language barrier with part of my family ever since I was very young. I've grown up in a Hispanic household since my family are of Mexican decent. When I was younger, I've always had a close connection to my grandparents even though they speak only Spanish to me and my siblings since that was the only way of communicating with us since English wasn't their first language. My parents most of the time weren't home since they both worked all day and came home very late unfortunately, so we would always be left with either my aunt or my grandparents since they were always free and were able to take care of us. Although this has been going on for a while, my siblings still couldn't catch onto the language as well as I did which soon led to me only speaking Spanish and at first my parents were very happy that I finally got the hang of the language but soon started to get worried for me since my school was mostly only English. This truly worried my parents since they thought I wouldn't find school easy due to the lack of communication and the language barrier. I can't lie this was a very hard time for me since I really couldn't talk to anyone that spoke English and it made me feel very lonely and isolated from everyone which if you have ever had that feeling you know it doesn't feel the best.

My parents soon ended up applying me for ESL in my school because they wanted me to have English as my primary language. Although it was a very long and difficult thing to do at such a

young age, I still ended up speaking only English again. As years passed, I started to notice how I didn't quite understand anything my grandparents were saying anymore, and I had to start from square one again unfortunately and again it was going to be another difficult obstacle. As people grow older and start to mature, I noticed that the level of learning new subjects and topics doesn't really get easier, in fact it gets harder and harder. Every day we have to go through that since I am still a student just in a more complex field than others might be in and as we level up to different grades the difficulty goes higher as well. This concept of learning basically applies to every person since not everyone knows everything at the beginning, no matter what is being taught to us it's always going to be difficult at first somehow.

I've noticed for me that learning new things and skills isn't very easy for not because it's something new that is going to be a part of my education but more so the form that I learn from is going to be difficult since everyone has a different way of learning things. After having to go through ESL and having to start again from square one, it opened some kind of path that helped me see how hard it must have been for my grandparents to be put in such a situation like this experience as immigrants. This experience really made me appreciate the little things my grandparents used to do for us to understand each other. I remember how one day after school there an issue was with one of my classmates and I was asked to translate for the teacher to the parent in Spanish and I knew that although I wasn't quite good at speaking it, I can at least try to get the mother to understand me with broken Spanish. At that time, I had to figure out what words I needed to use very fast and really couldn't think for a long time since it was needed in that moment. The girl's tooth was hurting a lot and she couldn't quite talk since it would hurt her a lot and so I told the mother in the best way possible that she needed to go see a dentist to see what was wrong with her tooth since it was hurting her so much.

At the moment it was the first time someone has fully understood every word that I've said to them after many years of not speaking Spanish. I can still remember it like it was yesterday, how proud I was of myself to help the girl out so her mom could take care of her. In that same moment my parents also picked me up from class and they were told that I was very helpful towards the teacher, they even asked me what exactly I said and with all the confidence I had in me I repeated it to them, just to only be told that what I said to the mother wasn't fully correct. The way that my confidence dropped after that cause I thought that my Spanish skills have come back after so long and that the mother actually understood me but she didn't and so I was forced to relearn the language all over again.

Even till this day my Spanish isn't good at all and have hard time communicating with my grandparents but luckily my grandpa learned a good amount of English to be able to have a conversation with me every now and then. Hes even the one that translates what I say to him for my grandma to also understand what is being said in the conversation, so she doesn't feel left out. Now thinking about all of the emotions I went through and all the obstacles that I did to end up not knowing any Spanish at all wasn't worth it to me as a little kid but if I had gone through that recently I would have been harder on myself just so I can accomplish this and reach the goal of learning a well-known language.