**Interview\_1:**

1. **Which language are you learning ?**

English

1. **What’s your native language?**

Japanese

1. **Why are you studying?**

Because English is the most spoken language and being able to speak English gives me more opportunities and options.

1. **When did you start?**

When I was 13 years old.

→ **What was the reason for starting?**

One of the school subjects was English.

1. **What was the hardest part of learning the language?**

I always enjoyed learning English, but maybe speaking was the hardest.

**→ Why was the speaking hard for you?**

Because there was little chance to practice speaking, and also even when I had chance I avoided speaking. I was not confident with my pronunciation and hesitated to speak in front of people.

**→ So do you mean pronunciation was the hurdle for you?**

Yeah I think so. I was afraid that people couldn’t understand me because of my bad pronunciation.

→ **How did you overcome?**

I think I’m still not so confident and sometimes I hesitate to speak English, but there are some scenes in my job where I have to speak English, and I learned that I don’t have to speak with perfect pronunciation. As soon as I realized that people could understand my English, I got some confidence and it made me feel more comfortable to speak English.

1. **How do you practice speaking?/ how many hours a day? /Any tools? (For English learners, How did you learn before you came to Australia? )**

When I started learning English, I practiced the conversation with other students in the class. The teacher told us to read aloud the sample conversations in the textbook, so we remember those conversations and practiced with each other.

I think I had English class almost everyday at school, but speaking was about for 5 mins per session.

The textbook came with CD which contains audio for the conversations recorded by native speakers, so everytime we practice speaking, we played the CD and tried to repeat after the audio.

**→ Do you think it was useful? / enough?**

I think 5 mins a day in class was not enough to be confident to speak English, but I would say it was useful, because the CD was the only source that I can practice speaking with, as I didn’t have any native speakers around me. Well if I was a student now, I would be able to use many resources online such as applications or podcasts, but I was in junior high school more than 10 years ago and at that time even smart phone didn’t exist.

1. **What was your best method for practicing speaking? Face to face, texting, reading or movies. Etc??**

So in my case, the biggest problem about speaking was my confidence. And for that what worked for me best was face to face conversation in real situation. I had no choice but to speak, and it made me realize that it was easier than I thought.

1. **Did you practice with native speakers, other students or alone?**

Starting with other students, and then with native speakers.

(as mentioned above)

1. **How did you find a person to talk (practice) the language to?**

Students are just in class.

Native speakers are some of the clients or partners who I met in my job.

1. **How did you stay motivated when learning a new language? What made it fun?**

I have always been aware that English gives me more opportunities and options for my life, so I think that’s the biggest motivation for me to keep learning. Also, being in a situation where I have no choice but to speak English was another motivation. Everytime I encounter that situation, I feel like I want to speak better next time.