My English Learning Journey

      English language is very foreign to me who grown up in a household where almost everyone converse in Hokkien. It was fortunate that my mother had decided to send me to a kindergarten, St.Anne, where I first learnt to write basic alphabets and count digits in English. More importantly, I could never forget how I enjoyed the singing session with my classmates every afternoon. Though I had struggled to sing every single words in the song, it was this experience that had truly remove the mysterious veil on English language. Furthermore, it gave me the courage to enrol myself in English related competitions in primary school, such as storytelling, stage drama and singing.

Learning a language entails the practice of speaking, listening, writing and reading. In secondary school, I had little problems with completing my written assignment because of my daily reading of the English newspaper as well as paying attention to global happenings on the Internet. I was also deeply engrossed in reading fiction and non-fiction books whenever I am free;consequently, I did my managed to acquired solid grasp on vocabularies tested in school. However, speaking has always been my Achilles’s heel, having its root from my lack of exposure to public speaking and exposure to English speaking medium.

      Later in senior year, I had decided to take the initiative to improve on speaking and listening skill. Since I was very interested in science and technology, I find videos of TED(Technology, Education and Design) talks very inspiring; non-native English speakers from different walks of life, education background and cultures could converse their ideas with such clarity in English. Therefore, I dedicated a few hours everyday to watch minute details of speakers of great calibre such as Sir Ken Robinson, Bill Clinton and Malcolm Gladwell. It dawned upon me that one could improve his speech by listening to good speeches. It did not stop here, I later volunteered to participate in a UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassador Workshop where I had the opportunity to present my idea of peace and share it with my fellow brothers and sisters from other participating countries. I felt that my current weakness is academic style of writing, where I felt restricted and loss when asked a full academic paper with citations. Furthermore, I faced difficulty when tasked to write under time constraint which probably affected most of my writing tests.

     English language is a truly fascinating language that allows me to connect with other people from around the world, and till today I still find my style constantly learning beautiful discoveries about the language.