Tesol Module 1 : Second Language Acquisition

My Personal Experiences in Learning Second Language

Name : Christine(Yang, Ji-Hyun)

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Instructor : Valerie Hamer

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Introduction

I will introduce three types of teachers who influenced me in ESL teaching belief.

Body

3 types of teachers in my personal experiences

1. Explainer in middle school
2. Involver in private academy
3. Enabler in university

Conclusion

I want to become an enabler in teaching English.

I will introduce three types of teachers who influenced me in ESL teaching belief in this article.

First, I would like to go back to the classroom and find a middle school girl who is eager to learn a second language for the first time in her life. And the girl is me. At her first English class, she is very curious and eager to learn a second language because she has never been exposed to another language.

The teacher is a middle-aged man who looks very strict. He is a typical type of explainer. There are about 50 students in a classroom.

He writes sentences in the black board and translates in Korean. There is no sound except the one of taking notes although it is a language class. Every student looks at the textbook only. He appoints some students to read a sentence and translate it. If the student fails, there are only humiliation and frustration.

The teacher doesn’t care whether the students understand the subject well or not. The teacher is the GOD of the class and passive students follow teachers order without knowing the reason. He never shares the control of the class with the students. The middle school girl loses interests in English.

Second, I had experienced involver type teacher in private academy when I was a freshman. It was successful experience to me because I regained interests in learning English.

The teacher was native English and had a good sense of humor. Classroom environment was comfortable and there were about 8~10 students in a classroom. She tried various activities, for example, ice-breaking activities, the pair or small group conversation, interesting games, role playing, tong twisters and so on. I was goal-oriented, and participated in various activities voluntarily. The teacher knew the methodology of teaching well and used it in her class effectively. And she always showed the courtesy to her students and remain balanced. She usually retained the control of the class, but sometimes shared it and involved only when necessary.

Third, I have a good memory of English teacher in university when I was a sophomore. The teacher was a middle-aged man from USA and enabler type. I took up the English class, because it was obligatory in my department to take a English speaking class 3 times a week to graduate.

He always started his class with warm-up activity. He never started class with test or asking the questions related to the previous class. Students can suggest any ideas that they want to learn or discuss about. If we do not like the topic that he gave, we could change the topic. He always share the control of the class.

Sometimes I met him at a restaurant or a coffee shop to talk with. He was always kind and polite. He doesn’t care the age and treat me as a friend. I felt that he respect me as an individual, and I was respect him truly. I did not feel the difference although we had different culture, race or background.

He was a genuine, good person, and the best teacher. I decided to study English more, because I wanted to become a fluent English speaker to deliver my ideas exactly. He gave a lesson that is language acquisition is not learning but enjoying.

In conclusion, I have experienced many English teachers and those experiences influenced me in good or bad ways.

Reflected on my personal experience, I want to become an enabler. Language is not difficult if we have enough motives to learn it. I think the teacher should give motives to the students. I will never give humiliation or punishment to the students. I will give positive feedback to my students and cheer them up if I become a teacher. I want to make my class fun and enjoyable.

Thank you for reading.

References

* Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching

(Dianne Larson-Freeman)

* Learning Teaching(Jim Scrivener)
* Class hand-outs