**My Chinese teacher in high school**

(629 words)



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Which language do you think is the most difficult to learn in the world? It was Chinese for me. I graduated from the foreign language high school and specialized in Chinese as a second language for three years. Even though Chinese is hard to learn for foreign people because of the complicated letters and four various accents to pronounce, learning Chinese is still interesting. I had three Chinese teachers in school and they all had different ways of teaching Chinese in their own methods. I would like to introduce one of the teaching method that one teacher used, Mrs. Yang, who gave me a beneficial influence on learning Chinese.

**At the first, there used to be lots of explanations of Chinese in the beginning of class.** The lesson used to follow the suggested paragraphs in the textbook whose contents consisted of Chinese letters, pronunciation, accents, grammar etc. Students were taught in Korean except when pronouncing Chinese syllables. What we mostly do was listening and taking notes about the meaning of words while she was saying, so students would tend to receive the information given from teacher. This explaining lesson was quite informative for the beginner level of students to figure out the basic structure of Chinese.

**Second, the goal in this Chinese class was to get the higher score on the exam rather than to use Chinese as a means of communication.** She looked like a strict leader and students were required to do what she commands to, like followers. Once she gave the translation or explanation of the text, students should take notes and memorize by themselves until the day of exam. After taking an exam, she would punish someone who got a lower score than 50% by hitting his palms with a stick. The delivery of knowledge from a teacher to students was the most active and emphasized technique.

**Third, a world-famous Chinese music “Tian mi mi” was prepared to have students familiar with a second language.** She used the song which was played throughout the film Comrades: Almost a love story (1996) sung by Teresa Deng. Since the melody of Tian mi mi was quite familiar with most of people in Korea, classmates we all could hum that song regardless of reading Chinese words. We were wondering about the meaning of what the song tells, so that made students more concentrate on the class. I think both familiarity and curiosity of the song were able to boost up student’s desire to learn Chinese.

**Fourth, some candies or chocolates were ready for a prize to students who did a good job in her class.** When someone pronounced Chinese syllables correctly on his turn or did homework perfectly, he could get treats from teacher. This reward worked pretty well for students to pay attention and keep trying to volunteer throughout the class. As soon as she recognized students were pleased to get a prize for a reward, she kept preparing candies all the time. In this case, candies played an important role as a positive reward so that students can participate in the class actively.

In conclusion, I was satisfied with her teaching method of Chinese as a second language more or less according to above four teaching styles. Her classroom seemed to be a just typical traditional classroom at the first time, but, fortunately, she made every effort to make the atmosphere of her classroom active. For example, even if she spent much time on explanations and translation for the higher score of test which was the ultimate goal in school actually at that time, she used “Tian mi mi” song, musical materials, to enhance student’s efficiency of Chinese. Moreover, she prepared some prizes as a positive reward so that students can response to the class spontaneously.