MY Second Language Acquisition Experience

2010-09-10

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Teacher- Jonathan

Words – 645 words.

Adult learner Characteristics

When I was 23, I went to Canada for studying English. It was my decision. The reason that I made this decision was I wanted to speak English fluently and thought that it could be good experience for my life. In addition, I want to be an interpreter in the future and going to Canada also could help me to study English. My goal in Canada was at least I could understand what the teachers were saying in the class and have a conversation with foreign friends in English. I was so excited and frightened because I didn’t know what is going on in Canada.

Traditional- Modern Classrooms.

I was shocked when I took English literature class at the first time. In Korea, the classes that I took before was teacher-centered. Students just wrote what the teachers said and they didn’t ask any ideas from their students. We couldn’t even think that students could give some opinion to teachers. If student do, it seems like that he is arrogant and doesn’t obey the teacher. In other words, teacher is the king and students must follow them without any complaint. However, it was different in Canada. The first thing that I was surprised was teachers wondered what their students are thinking and ask their opinion about the literature that teacher taught. In addition, students don’t hesitate to tell what they think and feel. Sometimes, they debated each other. They looked so free and even happy to express their thought. It was totally student-centered. I’ve never experienced like that before. Thus, I surely could feel the differences between Korea and Canada teaching system.

Teacher types.

Of course, there were some different teacher types in Canada. The most impressive teacher was English literature teacher. She really respected our feeling and thinking. She just listened to and watched what we did. She didn’t judge who is right or wrong even though a student couldn’t get the point and tell something wrong. She considered that it could be one of opinions to her. I think she is totally Enabler. I also felt comfortable during this class and could understand the subject well compared to Korean literature class. On the other hand, there is a teacher who is explainer. The teacher who taught business class forced students to memorize every term that we learned and read text. She might not like student’s opinion because I could see her annoying face when students give some opinion. I didn’t want to go to that class ever. It wasn’t interesting and I felt so bored that I could die in the class. I also could know there are similar differences between teachers in Canada.

Learning Styles/ Intelligences.

I realized what kind of learning style I have while I took the classes in Canada. As I said, in Canada, the classes are totally student-centered and every student participated in enthusiastically and usually do some group work or present what they’ve searched in public during the class. But, I was really not good at this. I was accustomed to studying by myself, tended to shy away from activities and didn’t debate with other students because I didn’t know how I express my feeling to others, so I took hard time to get used to it. I have intrapersonal strength. However, as time went by, I tried to change my learning style to interpersonal strength and I should do because I needed to achieve my actual goal while I was staying in Canada. Whenever teacher gave us group working, I participated in it actively and I did my best during debate class to tell them what I was thinking about an issue.

I really don’t forget this memory in Canada and I think it was successful because I experienced something unusual and special that nobody could get. I never forget it forever.