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My English Learning Experience-Essay

As I am a Korean, I have learned English from my middle school days. At that

time the teacher taught us interpreting the text through grammar. Now I recall

that the teacher was an explainer and the way of teaching was through lectures.

We were in traditional classrooms. However I was not an adult learner then. I

thought this way of teaching was a failure to learning English because we

couldn’t speak English practically.

After I became a student of National University of education, I applied as an

exchange student of Wisconsin University. I got an ESL Course. I learned English

as a second language including various kinds of topics; Geography, History,

Presentation, the theories of pedagogy, the reality of elementary school in

America. According to the topic, the way of teaching was diverse. Classes were

for adult learners. Teachers respected our decisions. Also we shared our personal

goals and life experiences with them. So I recall that the class was like a modern

type. Because they used a lot of teaching ways; lecture, reading, audio-visual, live

demonstration, discussion in groups, etc, I felt the teachers were almost involvers

and enablers. I thought it was successful to learn English.

Now, I do not think that the way of GTM was failure to learn English. If I didn’t

know much about basic grammar and vocabularies, I couldn’t take ESL course in

America. If I was an American, it’s OK, but English is not my mother tongue.

I am in EFL(English as Foreign Language)situation. So my personal belief to learn

second language is like that.

First, consider the situation learners faced. If there is EFL situation and level of

learners is low, I can adapt GTM to learn basic grammar and ATM to master

expressions. However if level is beyond intermediate, DM and CLT can be adapted

by modern classic style. Second, I can divide the time into level. When it comes

to PPP model, first time is guided speaking. So accuracy is important. I can

adapt ALM and GTM. Then second time as free speaking, fluency is accented.

Therefore I will adapt CLT and Game/Chant, etc.

Anyway, my personal belief to learn a second language is like that it is

important to follow the order from accuracy to fluency.