**TESOL Essay**

(My experiences I had in the past learning English)

-Centering on teacher types-

                                                                                                                    Class : 62 Tesol weekend class

                                   Name : Olivia (Hong, Hyun Sin)

                                    Date : 12th /March/2011

I'm a piano teacher. I majored in the piano and composition at the university. The time when I was in middle and high school, I had to practice the piano very hard and study not only English but also many other subjects to enter the university. High school's study was only for the entrance exam of college.

At that time, in English class in middle and high school, we used to learn only reading and grammar, no speaking, no listening and no writing because so many students were in a classroom and almost all our teachers didn't speak fluent English, even though they were intelligent people who graduated from the good universities. Teachers just explained text books to us tediously. So English was just boring subject for me. As far as I remember, all my school English teachers were boring explainers.

After I graduated from the university, I decided to become a graduate student to study music education. In the graduate school, some of professors gave lectures in English. Many students including me used to get nervous whenever we had to answer our professor's questions. It was a very hard situation to adjust, because we were not ready to express well our opinion in English. I felt like the professors taught only some of students who understood well about what they said in the classroom. I felt a sense of inferiority and isolated. In retrospect, the professors ignored our pace of study and an uncomfortable atmosphere in our classroom.

I lost my interest in English till I met a Canadian in my neighborhood. He owned an English institute with his wife. One of my neighbors introduced him to me. At first, he was my daughter's English teacher. He was humorous and considerate of all his students. Especially, he led children to have fun while they were taking English lessons. It seemed that he had many kinds of ideas about teaching English.

For example, Once or twice a month, he had a theme day for children. The institute could have been any interesting places, a market, a hospital, a town of fairy tale, a kitchen, a special magic stage and so on. Most of all, he loved children sincerely. He always emphasized that children should have creative thinking in many ways. In order to do that, children should have many kinds of experiences. That's why he always tried to provide various activities for his students in his classes.

I also took English lessons from him in a class for adults. All my classmates were private English teachers or the people who had studied abroad. It was an advanced class. My classmates were merely afraid that they forgot English. In our country, they had no chance to speak out English in daily routine. But I was totally different. My life had nothing to do with English. In his institute, there were two classes for adult learners, one was beginner class, and the other one was advanced class. The teacher offered me to belong to the advanced class. He said that listening to what other people say in English would have been very helpful for me. He was right. I didn't feel isolated. Because my teacher always gave me chances to participate in the class. Whenever I didn't understand something of what they said, he used to write summary for me.

Our teacher and we talked a lot about each other's lives. Plus, we used to give advices to each other. We shared many things together whatever happened to us, He was kind enough to be a real friend with us. In other words, he was a good mentor. Now, he and his family live in Canada. I just took English lessons from him for 9 months, but I can say that I learned a lot from him more than anybody. I think the teacher was an enabler. He made me have confidence to speak English and he inspired me to want to study English as well. As a teacher, as a friend, he helped me a lot. After all, I realized that teachers could be the biggest motivation for learning English.

He was an also involver for children. He frequently prepared simple and interesting games to play together in his classes. He used to display many photos about theme days and many pieces of works that children made in the institute. I'm sure that the memories from what we experienced when we're young last for a long time. For that reason, my daughter must have been very lucky to have him as a teacher.

Do you believe that dreams have no limitations? Now, I dare to dream that I'll be an English teacher. I know a good teacher should care about every student and find out every learner's needs in class. It would be very difficult because not everybody feels the same way about the same situation. They have different backgrounds and thoughts. So teacher's priority is trying to understand what position they belong to and what dreams they have. I hope that I'll be a teacher who has the right qualification to do like that, and I'll be a mentor who inspires students to reach their dreams.