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#1 Essay

I went to the Philippines for studying English when I was a sophomore, using the school program. At that time, I took an unfamiliar class that I never had before in Korea. There were three types of classes like one on one, three to one and group class. When I took classes in there, it shocked to me because there was no teacher. My teachers in the Philippines were my friends and good helpers contrary to teachers in Korea. We had a lot of discussions about some topics and sometimes, we didn’t need a text book. Our goal was to study English with fun and to take off our fear about English. In Korea, if I made a mistake in a grammar or some parts, I was shy and I was in a state of depression about my mistake. But in the Philippines, it didn’t matter because we could learn a key point and fix the error easily through my mistake that I had before. I could gain confidence in English and I would made conversations with my classmates and teachers naturally. Actually, before my trip to the Philippines, I didn’t like to speak English in front of people who speak English well, including foreigner. I thought that my ability in English is horrible especially, the pronunciation. Also, nobody told me to cheer individually as “don’t worry, you can do it.” Most teachers in Korea let memorize words to students and then check. We couldn’t share our ideas because class member were so big in the class. We just followed teachers and took a test. We always studied for taking the exams in Korea. Because of my experience that I had before, I didn’t improve my skills a lot and I didn’t have self- confidence in English. But I could have self- confidence even though my English ability was not perfect while I took classes and met teachers in the Philippines. I could ask my curiosity about my study whenever I wonder. To sing a song and to have talking time, using the grammar and lesson’s expression were so great for improving my English skills. My life for studying English in the Philippines was totally successful.

From that time, I hoped that I will be a good teacher for people who want to study English effectively. I have learned good things for teaching people in the TESOL class. There are four things that I learned from my teacher, Gene.

First of all, Malcolm Knowles identified 5 characteristics of adult learners as adults have life experience and knowledge, adults are autonomous and self-directed, adults are goal-oriented, adults are relevancy-oriented and adults need to be shown respect. It means that adults have a freedom to choose, motivation, participant and responsibility. Also, they have a goal they want to reach their destination. Because of those, if I am a teacher, I will help them to reach their goal and I will prepare the lessons that relate to achieving their goal. Importantly, I will respect their values and different opinions.

Secondly, there are some differences between traditional and modern classrooms. In the traditional classroom, teacher stands in front of students and led most of things in the class. Students have low participation because students always listen and write notes like individual work, using their text book. Teachers and students have low interaction. It almost seems the classrooms in Korea. In the Modern classroom, on the other hand, teacher’s location is not center or in front of student. They are moving and sitting with students. They can be guides, helper and facilitator for students. They make a group work and variety of actives for getting more communicative interaction. There are more speaking, writing and visual materials between teachers and students. I think that modern classroom is better than traditional classroom in the most of situations. Modern classroom seems like my class in the Philippines. So, I want to teach students, using pair work and visual materials for improving lesson’s effect. Also, I want to be a good helper and navigator for students.

Thirdly, there are three categories of teaching style as explainer, involver and enabler. Explainer is a traditional lecture style. They are lecturers and does most talking in class. Students listen and take note individually. Involver has knowledge and knows to teach. Their classes have students’ high participation and have class discussion, group work and some kinds of activities, including listen and take note. Enabler knows what students expect. They can share control the lesson with students. Students can be center. If I choose one thing among the three styles, I want to choose the involver. Enabler is also good style but it depends on students’ age and level, it can make noisy mood. So, I want to be an involver. I think that an involver can be effectively style for teaching.

Lastly, it is effective teaching. There are many effective teachings. Maybe, every teacher has different good teaching ways. When I took a class, I picked three things for teaching effectively. To give clear feedback positively, to show respect and to communicate clearly were my choices. When I give good feedbacks to students, they can fix their errors easily and improve their abilities speedily I think. And I think classroom seems to be a small society so, we need to respect each other and we have to have clear communication each other. It will make good mood and it can help to share our point and ideas between teachers and students. Of course, basically, teacher should prepare good lesson and curriculum for teaching.

I always think about what a good teacher is. A good teacher is not a ruler in the classroom and needs to be a helper and navigator to students for helping to reach their goal. I always do my best for searching good materials and ways about the good lesson. When I have efforts consistently about my class, I will be able to be a nice teacher.