**My favorite experience of language learning**

I have studied English as a second language since I entered the middle school. The main teaching style I have experienced at school was the Explainer. Most English teachers used to stand in front of the class and monologue during all class hour. School work was always boring and mandatory. I guess that’s why I have had a passive impression on school teachers. However now, I can understand their situation at that time. They were controlling too many students at once, for instance, about 600 students per teacher during one semester. There was no choice for them but to teach in a traditional way.

Anyway, after graduation from the high school, I was more motivated to study English by Hollywood films and famous TV shows. I keep exposing myself to English and have studied for myself. It leads to getting high score from the TOEIC TEST. But I don’t think that this learning type was really effective.

But these days I think that I finally found a perfect place that teaches language effectively. It is located near Gangnam station. I’m really enjoying learning language there thanks to well organized procedures. Considering the class works, I think that the teaching procedure designers of this language school must have certificates of TESOL or have degrees in the Language teaching. I’m going to tell you about their teaching procedures and the characteristics of my teachers’ teaching styles.

First of all, this academy is targeting on adult learners and is concentrating on promoting only productive skills of language. Since Korean adults have long been trained with receptive language skills, students are good enough with lexical and grammar. I’m learning from two teachers and actually they spend a little time explaining grammars and vocabularies for that reason. The leaners welcome this teaching style and they are eager to speak English. Though experience, they know how important the speaking skill is in their daily life. They could get a promotion, get a job or be more self-confident though promoting this skill. This is why the adult learners are more motivated than children.

Out of other numerous language schools, most remarkable feature of this academy is compulsion. If a student doesn’t come to class 3 times a month, he will not be allowed to register ever gain. Plus, all participants including me are forced to remain after class for more than 3-4 hours. So, I spend more than 6 hours a day there. There are more rules, which I’m going to demonstrate later. It looks to be somewhat an irony that strict rules make an adult learner to be more involved into the class. It’s opposite in some parts with the theory that adult learners are autonomous and self-directed. I guess teachers are trying to maintain the balance. The reasons behind those strict rules might be to help the learners to risk their shyness and make highly involved environment. The learners understand those reasons and obey rules.

Speaking of my teachers, they do the teaching as the Involvers or the Enablers. They always make students speak full sentences using new items learned right before. They only give small hints to the learners. So, last lessons about modern teaching skills which are focusing on more involvement made me a little shocked. It reminded me of my current experience. Also, they use lot of visual materials such as a scene of a movie to introduce new expressions. As I am visual learner, I think I can memorize longer in this way. But sometimes the Explainer teaching type is applied into the class depending on the aims of lesson.

Plus, the regulation that one student must have English interviews with the teachers more than 15 times a month is so strict. From the conversation, the teachers get to know each student. The teachers become aware of how an individual is feeling about the class and his or her language level. In order to have a natural conversation, teachers move around the library inside language school. They are really supportive. In my case, my teacher encouraged me by boosting my English skill in front of my team mates. What I described above is related to the interactionist theory. Through communicating with the teacher, I could hear his accent when he talked and answer imitating him right back. The Communication in natural settings acquires to use all the skills of language.

You might be curious what I usually do in the extra 3-4 hours after class. I’m supposed to participate in varied activities. I keep being busy. I’m in a group and sit in a pair to practice what I learned in the class that day and correct my partner’s mistakes. Then I have to move to the computer room to record my voice and hear it again to improve intonation and stress. The staffs always check the learner’s participation, which consist of the grade. The student volunteers to get a good grade to be in the upper level class. Nobody cares about the grade itself. And twice a month, I have to do role playing. Most practical activity is to have a discussion about what expression would be proper in a certain situation. I negotiate with others to decide and hardly forget expressions that I argued to use. You would never know how diverse these activities are! Those are evolving on and on.

Now I understand how important the involvement of learners is. It is a principal that I should keep in mind whenever walking into the classroom. And I could learn from my teachers’ style like balancing between strict rules and students’ autonomy. As I’m planning to teach juveniles or kindergarten aged kids, their characteristics are different from adults’ ones. So I would have to adjust depending on each condition. I hope to be a good guide in the field.