What kind of teacher I would like to be?

Sera Kim, 2011.06.15

When you turn on the TV late at night, you often see discussion programs

being aired and usually they deal with current issues. And quite very often you

will find the day’s topic is school education or school related problems. Even

though the whole country is always paying attention to the education issue, the

number of students heading to the airport leaving to study abroad do not

decrease. The biggest reason will be school failure in Korean education system.

As a person who is waiting for the birth of my first child, I already have thoughts

of sending my kid abroad in the future for his or her own study as I do not like

the system and method of Korean education and I myself have a dream of

becoming a little bit different type of English teacher in the future.

First, people mention the biggest problem of Korean education is cramming

method of teaching. Personally I think I had a good chance to compare the

Korean teachers’ teaching style with that of American teachers’, as I had attended

the American school both in my teenage period and college years. It was like a

chance to compare the traditional classroom with modern classroom. I really

liked my speech class when I attended the community college as the teacher was

very passionate and involving. I remember one day he was teaching the speech

method of eye contact and he let all the students raise their hands and the one

who had eye contact with the speaker lowered the hand. I was quite embarrassed

when it was my turn as I am not used to do eye contacts and haven’t had many

chances to speak in front of many people. However, the activity was really fun

and the teacher encouraged me a lot as I enjoyed it, and I thought I will use this

method sometime in the future when I teach my own students. Of course, I

would like to be involver and enabler type of teacher, not the explainer as most

Korean teachers used to be.

Also, I would like to draw attention and interest from the students by using

audio-visual materials and live demonstrations as I believe those methods are

well more effective for the students to remember the day’s study. Giving lecture

was the most common type of teaching that I experienced in the past, and even

though sometimes they were effective too when I was studying grammar, but I

would like to teach English more lively and actively in class making students

participate and become very energetic while studying.

My sister is now an English teacher in middle school and I respect her as

seeing her making effort to teach her students not only by giving lecture but

using various techniques in her class. She uses powerpoints very often and told

me that was more effective than using only books. Once I become an English

teacher, I will use those teaching methods as being an involver of the class and

give my students as many chances as possible to be active and energetic, letting

them know the fun of learning an language while enjoying. Still I need to try a lot

more to build my own teaching style and method and that will be a very

interesting process for myself too.

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