My first experience of studying English

-Three Main Factors for Studying English

Sonia (Sungyeon Park)

 I have been studying English since 1996 which is my first grade of middle school. It has been almost sixteen years since then. Most of Korean people have same period of studying of English like me. However, Koreans usually don’t really speak and write English and have fear of “English” itself. Now, I am going to explain the reason why Koreans, including me, have such feeling on English even though we have been exposed by English long time and how pelple can develop English skills effectively.

 First thing is about the problem of teaching style. In the past, most of English teacher in Korea, they just had the one-way teaching style. One-way teaching style means that teachers only lecture and give information to students and students just either write down or memorize the lecture. Therefore, Korean people are really good at grammar and vocabulary. Now we say such teaching style as an old style and new generation teachers have two-way teaching style which focus on live English. I think, to develop the skills of English, giving lecture is not a solution. People need to speak actual English.

 Second thing is goal. Needless to speak, to achieve something, people needs to set the goal. In studying English, setting the goal is also important too. When we are middle school student, we don’t really have a neccesaty of studying English. Parents and teachers just push students to study English. So, Students don’t have big desire of studying and have passive attitude on English. Without goal, there would be no passion which means no love and interest on English. In my case I have a strong goal of studying when I was in U.S. So, I was very pro-active and passionate. I tried not to watch Korean TV show and tried not to speak any Korean with Korean people.

 Third thing is effective teacher. When I was in U.S, I was attending the ESL course from Velmont University in Tennessee. There was a teacher called Susan who was my homeroom teacher. She used to live in Japan for three years as an English teacher. She knew how to teach foreign student very well. She was not so strict but had a good skill of treating student. She always started class as a famous easy English song which helped our listening skills. Whenever we hand in essays, she also gave us very detailed feedback on essays which helped our grammar and composition skills. She also had great skills of understanding each student’s ability. She gave different level of homework and recommended different theme of English books according to students’ interests.

 To conclude, I would like to emphasize that English is very essential ability in this society and most of people try to study English really hard. The key point is three facts. Teaching style, goal and having effective teacher, all three are important and these facts should balance well.