<Second Language Acquisition Assignment>

**The beginning of my path to second language**

 **Grace1 (Min Hye, Kim)**

**You cannot teach a man anything ; You can only help him find it within himself - Galileo Galilei**

What are teachers for?

I think that teachers are those who know themselves first and know their students. They are involvers and enablers that can motivate Ss to find their individual strengths, interests and to achieve their goals.

Interest excites the passion to learning.

I have a happy memory about my second language learning experience. Looking back to the time in 1987, I was in the first grade at Dongdaemoon girls' middle school. So I was a little nervous and excited at middle school days.

It was a first English class in the middle school. She was a middle aged lady with a funny perm, Seung-Rhyoung Ahn, walked lightly into a classroom holding a cassette player. She looked very bright and used English more than Korean, speaking rhythmically. In class, she made Ss listen to the cassette and repeat loudly over and over. Sometimes she reminded us of accents with hands. I hummed accents at home unconsciously, doing my English homework. I got a deep impression by her to learn second language. I thought that English is very fun and interesting for the first time.

I think she was an involver and enabler. Because she tried to involve the students actively and puts a great deal of effort into finding appropriate and interesting activities that would do this. She has influenced on me and also helped me find my strong intelligence. Also, although it was a very past class, I think it was like a modern teaching because of students centered, students involved and activities.

On the contrary, there was another English teacher, the explainer, in the third year of middle school in 1989. She was same middle aged lady, Hye-Jung Kang, like a first grade English teacher. The teacher always spent lots of class time using the board and reading a textbook, explaining. She seemed not to try to involve and challenge her students. It was not interesting and active, but just boring and invariable. I couldn't improve my English skills, didn't try to study more. She was only an explainer, nothing more and nothing less. And the class was a typical traditional teaching with no activities, teacher centered and continuously sitting.

Psychologist Howard Gardner has suggested that people have at least seven distinct intelligences that can be developed over a life time.

The seven are:

1. Logical/ mathematical 2. Visual /spatial 3. Body / kinesthetic

4. Musical / rhythmic 5. Interpersonal 6. Intrapersonal

7. Verbal/ linguistic

How could Ts apply multiple intelligences to three modes of learning

(Visual, Auditory, Tactile- Kinesthetic)?

We cannot directly see the intelligences. We observe Ss at work by observing individuals carrying out various kinds of behaviors and tasks.

For instance, Visual learners need to record & write, watch videos & draw. Auditory learners need to talk & sing songs, chants. Tactile-Kinesthetic learners need to touch, do things physically.

However, teachers must, first of all, balance whole class work with attention to individual differences and enable each student to interact, participate, reach their full potential through balancing language systems and language skills.

However, Ts must, first of all, balance whole class work with attention to individual differences and enable each Ss to reach their full potential through balancing language systems, language skills.

Now, long time passed, I am here teaching English at language school through my second language learning experience. Considering my teaching style so far, I wonder if I have been an involver, an enabler not an explainer and how well effectively I have used language skills, have created a positive learning atmosphere.

For me without meeting with involver and enabler teacher Seung-Rhyoung Ahn, just meeting with explainer teacher, I am not here teaching and learning TESOL. From now on I will try to be more positive, more patient, more enthusiastic, creative for my Ss and focus on Ss experiences, Ss centered and make both enjoyable and balanced classes.

Ss cannot enjoy learning until when I can enjoy my teaching.

There are many things in this world that cannot be learned from books.

So now I experience and challenge new world.

At least I feel alive when I have something to experience and recognize.