**Who is the best teacher?**

**Kim Kyung Hee**

All my fellow students could be able to begin learning English after they entered middle school. For the first time I also could meet the alphabet in the 1st English class in Seong Seo middle school. There were two English teachers to make impression on me. One motivated me to be interested in English in the 1st grade and the other helped me develop my English skills in the 3rd grade.

Park Young-Joo, she was my first English teacher in middle school. She was young but a typical explainer. Especially she laid emphasis on building up our vocabulary and in each class she gave us a vocabulary quiz about previous lesson. When students got the right answer, she gave us some candy or chocolate as a reward. Besides she used to say to us,” If you copy 50 times a word by handwriting, the word will be yours forever.” I followed her advice and tried to memorize English words as many as possible to get the candy. As a result, the more I had papers, the more interested I became because by reading the text, I was able to better understand than before.

Interest in English led me to the next step. At that time, there was an English teacher, who was Lee Myung-Jah, in the 3rd grade. She was old and another explainer. However, her holiday task helped me develop my English skills. It was to read an English book, “What a life” published by Long Man-which had no Korean- without a dictionary and answer the questions in the book. She also advised us, “Do you want to be good at English? If you do your homework two hours a day with this book and complete the task during this vacation, you will be good at English.” I followed her advice and completed the task. She was right. This helped me improve my confidence in English. Even I would like to read more English books. So, I went to the bookstore and bought a book “Little Prince” which had no Korean. After that, I tried to read over 100 English books without a dictionary and by finding the relations between words in a sentence, I could get the meaning of a new word.

Actually two teacher were typical explainers and their teaching was based on behaviorist theory and traditional classroom. In the case of Ms. Park, she focused on teaching English by rote. It could be helpful to beginners to learn L2 in L1 environment because babies also acquired L1 by repetition, however, the rote also should be arranged in the context and it should not use in further steps. It was also easy to control lots of students; however, it could miss each learner’s different interest and ability.

Positive reinforcement (=candy) could be able to encourage specific behavior, but ultimately it could be able to lead for learners to have intrinsic motivation in order to keep studying L2. In the case of Mrs. Lee, her task was useful to get common sense and helpful to develop to understand the meaning of a sentence in the context. Even it made learners feel more comfortable in English. However, if students didn’t do the homework, the good task could be useless. To sum up, the explainer who was based on behaviorist theory couldn’t lead all students effectively because it was the teacher-centered learning not the student-centered. In addition, English was not just a tool to read and write, but a part of culture to share and a device to communicate.

In conclusion, my English teachers as an explainer led me to study English hard but I hope to lead my students to study English as an enabler with the integrated-skill approach. My goal is ultimately to help my students to discover their intrinsic motivation in English. Actually there are lots of things to prevent to study English; for example, background, age, location, level, money, physical and mental health, affective domain, etc. Despite all that, I believe if someone has a strong intrinsic motivation, he/she will succeed without any doubt. Therefore, I think rapport is the most important factor between teachers and students and I’ll do my best to build up the rapport with my students by having empathy, authenticity and respect.