**Learning the universal language**

TESOL 75- Jae Yi

Essay #1

The majority of South Koreans choose to learn English as their second language because it is recognized as a universal language. In my case, learning English as a second language was an easy transition because I was very young. I have been taught by many different types of teachers who used different but effective methods. The teachers that were most memorable and impressionable were my elementary teachers.

In the United States, I attended public schools which aren’t the best of schools but I was fortunate enough to have experienced good teachers. In grade school, my teacher Mrs. Javna incorporated the icebreaker technique in the begging of the class and eased her way to Tactile-kinesthetic and visuals. Sometimes she sang songs to teach us new words and she would often play the piano too. A lot of Mrs. Javna’s methods are also applied in our TESOL classes. Comparing these experiences tells me that whatever the stage of learning we can be effective in both the teachers and students perspective.

The experiences I had in middle and high school were a bit more intense as I got older. I remember Mrs. Adler who was my English and grammar teacher using a lot of BF Skinner’s methods. She would us assignment to do then evaluate us with positive punishments or positive rewards. Such as having us re-do our work or pointing out what we didn’t do. Instead of failing us or scolding us, she patiently had us do more work to have us realize what we missed. This method was much more different than in my grade school days because back then the teachers would just correct us and move on. But in middle and high school we had to be more responsible in our assignments so that we can get the most out of our learning.

The last stage of my English learning experience was in college. In college it was more demanding in every sense. More auditory than anything else were used. No personal attention or fun activities in the classroom. We needed to have keen listening and give feedback on a much higher level. Lessons were taught more directly and verbally which was okay if you were the auditory type or an A’ student. There was no easing into any lessons. It was very direct and fast paced. I preferred more visuals and direct physical involvement. The lessons that I have learned in just the first week from TESOL only proves to me that even as adults we can learn in so many different ways but still be affective in teaching and learning. Personally, I enjoy B.F Skinner’s methods as well as Jean Piaget. Just to name a few. Because most people that take up English as a second language come from all different ethnic backgrounds, I realized it takes more to teaching them just their A’B’C’s. Much patience and humility is required.

It is clear to me now that there are so many methods of teaching to explore in order to be most effective as a teacher. Basically, I can apply what worked for me as a student. My experiences allow me to explore and investigate other methods of teaching to broaden my teaching strategies. I have recently learned about micro-teaching and ice-breakers which seem very effective with all age groups. I also believe that trial and error is also necessary in becoming a sound teacher. I will implement a wide range of methods that best suites my style of teaching. I will humbly and patiently continue explore other methods to improve the quality of my teaching. Although I have no previous experience as a teacher, I hope to continue experimenting and learning new techniques and methods to become the best teacher I can be. Nike said it best “Yes I can” and “Just do it”.