**Second Language Acquisition Assignment-Essay #1**

**~ To be a good shepherd for my cute little lamb ~**

Class : TESOL 74th

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*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures,*

*he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.*

*He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. [Psalm 23:1~3]*

Language is the way we express our very being. In Korea, everybody probably have their own personal experiences of *second language acquisition*. Learning English as a Second Language is not easy compare to those who use them as a First Language. I looked back upon my school days through this essay assignment.

When I was 7 years old, my mother gave me a present of DVD which is Walt Disney’s animation named “Little Mermaid” and “Beauty and the Beast” I really loved them to watch but I could not understand them at all. I asked to my mother, “What are they saying?” She answered back to me “In DVD, they are speaking in English. If you learn that language, you can experience more fun stuffs. You will have many many friends all over the World.” I remember that I was so excited what she said to me. I think from that time on, I started to have an interest in English.

There were many teachers who helped me to learn English in Korea. However learning English in Korea, it was only traditional way. Korean education system is TEST score-oriented. It is only focuses for the English exam score in school and to enter to the good college. Most of teachers made me to memorize a lot of vocabulary and explanation of books only. Studying just by lecture and teacher’s explanation made me bored and lost my interest to learn English. Korean style teaching was one-sided way. It might help those whom want to get a wonderful score for test. But that was not my goal for learning English and I was sick of it. I wanted to speak English more fluently and become familiar with. So I decided to study in the United States in age 16 when I was senior in high school.

When I studied in US, I met the lady whose name is Ms.Thompson. She was my ESL teacher. I influenced a lot from her to improve my English Skill. For the student’s level, I think I was an elementary beginner back then. I could make just simple oral communication abilities, basic reading and writing. . Through her class I could improve my English skill a lot not only reading and writing but also listening and speaking.

She helped me out to become an intermediate. She made students to participate in class and gave us a lot of assignment regarding interesting topics. Doing homework and presentation during class was very interesting because the topic she gave us was very fun!!

I learned a lot from her because she made the subject matter come alive through her knowledge and enthusiasm. She always looked through student’s eyes. She gave some stickers when we did a good job on our homework. Also, she was very authentic

As teachers, our major contribution to life and to education is to help others find their own way to towards their own solutions within their own lives. As an efficient teacher for the *second language learner*, we should be all three teacher type such as explainer, involver and enabler. Through the average retention rates for various teaching methods, most of the students remembered what they experienced. That is why we have to be an involver and enabler teacher for the students,

Through the teachers that I experienced reflect on the past days, I want to become an involver and enabler.

I am sure the most important things teachers should have is respect their students and being able to see things from the other person’s perspective. We also need to know their language level and what is their purpose of learning English. I want to look closely at what my students really want and how I really feel about them. It is like being a good shepherd is that guide the lamb to the paths of righteousness. Always watch out what they want and think what is the BEST for them. This is my personal teaching beliefs to the concepts that I learned in the TESOL 1 module.