TESOL Essay 1- Oh hyeoneun(Sophia)

I have been studying English for almost 20 years by learning in school, in private institute and studying by myself at home with books, DVDs and the internet. When I think of my experience of learning English, the teacher who helped me enjoyed the class and encouraged me to learn the lesson was the one that I remember the most.

In high school, most of the students and I learned from so-called ‘Traditional’ teaching. The teacher spent most of the time in explaining things on the board and delivering knowledge to us. What I did most in my English class was to listen to teacher, take notes and sometimes answering questions but little talking. In some ways, it’s important to be taught the grammar and to memorize thousands of vocabularies from the lecture given by a teacher. The most important thing, however, is to use the language students themselves in the class I think.

When I remember the experience taking language course in Canada at age of 20, I was in the beginner class since my specking ability was low though I had studied English over 10 years in Korea. I felt like that I started again learning English from the beginning but in a very active and positive way. I learned vocabularies in a pair or group working by using them in a role-play naturally. I also learned grammar in a certain situation made by me and practiced in the class. The teacher, as an enabler, helped me asking some questions and gently correcting English I spoke in a wrong way while she was listening to my conversation in a pair work.

The teacher used a variety of materials not only books but also handouts, pictures, movies and so on creating energetic learning atmosphere. It ultimately made a positive relationship between the teacher and the student, and I also could increase my self-esteem and understanding English better than ever before. From these enjoyable English learning experiences, I have exposed myself to the English speaking environment by talking with a native speaker without fear, watching sitcom, listening and repeating CNN news announcers. That memorable time of learning keeps me studying English on and on.

Based on my experience learning English, I would like to create a positive learning atmosphere and help students focus more on what they do in the class. Technically, I can use visual aids such as pictures, slides and movies to help students understand better. Doing activity works individually and in pairs or groups is the way that students get involved with the language.

The students listen to me what to learn for today’s class and do activity exercises learning new vocabularies, practicing grammar in conversation. There would be a lot of talking in the class. I, as an enabler teacher, give instruction at the beginning and then monitor students by asking CCQ(Concept Checking Questions) and help them lead the class. I will definitely keep in mind three important qualities of being a teacher to create an effective learning environment. Respect my students, have empathy for their perspective and also be myself authentically. All of these ways of teaching will make the relationship between the students and me more open and helpful.

My key point to teach English in the future is to encourage students to get involved using the language for themselves in the class. And I will be there for them to support their learning English building a good classroom atmosphere.