Essay

***My Second Language Acquisition Experience***

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Class: 77th weekend Tesol

Teacher: Alan

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1. **Introduction**

What is the English class’s image in my mind?

I have studied English starting from a middle school student.

I had taken so-called **traditional English class** before I graduated from the university. Teachers taught English in the way they had been taught when they were a student before. Teachers just explained grammar and we took some notes. (**Explainer**) We only focused on **receptive skills. (Listening, Reading)**

As a result, I thought English was just a difficult, boring subject. And I also got to forget about the important English’s communicative function.

Fortunately, In Philippines and Australia I could take **modern English class** different from before I took. At first, I had felt pretty awkward. However, after I got used to it, I felt excited about learning English and some fear of English gradually disappeared. Now I would like to talk about Philippine’s small group class which is the most memorable and helpful.

1. **Body**

That was a small group class composed of 8 students and one teacher. Teacher suggested some topics and students discussed their thought following teacher’s some instructions. I have high **Interpersonal Intelligence** so I prefer studying together as a team player to studying alone. It is difficult to organize my thought and speak logically, though, it is my favorite part to listen other’s creative various opinions, and we shared many things I couldn’t think and express.

30 students divided into 4 groups according to English levels. Because students had a similar English grade, teacher could teach up to our level. As the result, we could take appropriate classes.

I suppose that class’s style was **Integrated-skill approach**. I could learn and use all four skills; I listened other’s opinions (**Listening**), read the topics before discussing (**Reading**), organized my opinion and took my friend’s creative ideas (**Writing**) and spoke my thinking in front of the class. (**Speaking**)

Teacher took various topics every class with a lot of activities. He gave students strong motivation. (**Involver**); For instance, using games. If we won the game, he gave us some presents like snacks. If we lost, we challenged the food which foreigners usually don’t like to eat. He was an **enabler** as well. When some students didn’t understand the meaning, he made the students who understood explain it. It was helpful for each other. And sometimes he required us to prepare topics or games by ourselves.

Teacher was always **enthusiastic**. He tried to develop many ways to teach. He **knew the subject matter** and sense of common well. Also he **communicated clearly**. He was **patient** enough to **listen to our opinions**. If students hesitated to tell their stories, he told his **sincere** story. When we were in Philippines, our biggest worry was about English. We were always nervous when we felt our English level was still low. And we thought and thought how to improve our English. Every time students told their worries, he tried to give wise answers. (**Empathizes with student’s problems**) If some specific students dominated the class, he mediated to make all of students speak and didn’t forget to do feedback.

1. **Conclusion**

I suppose it is the most important thing for students to have an interest about learning something. Studying English is in the same way. The reason of learning English is to communicate with other people. Each class has a different style according to teacher’s belief and teaching method. When teachers forget the reason and explain only, it makes students decrease their morale. We learned **Teaching/Mentoring** is the most effective teaching method. The more students participate in the class, the more they can learn. **Teacher’s role is so much important. Teacher has a responsibility to make best learning atmosphere to have students learn more and more.**

It is not enough for teachers to give students knowledge only. Of course, it is the first aim to teach useful and logical content. However, if teachers just give information without rapport, they would be just a recording tape to students. For those reasons, **rapport** is so important. The teacher I recall with most pleasure and respect was the one who listened to me, who encouraged me, who respected my own views and decisions. Teacher can be a best friend, parents or mentor. Students can get not only the general knowledge but also emotional satisfaction.

I would like to lead interesting classes by studying and thinking constantly to teach well and to be memorable great teacher for students.