My Experience of Learning English

This modern time, everybody is very serious about getting a good education. Especially people are very serious about the English education. Because of the English is the most common language in the world right now. In order for that we are experiencing many types of English education. And also while we are in the many types of English education, we are experiencing many different educators, teachers, and students.

Not all the English education would be a good experience. Some of them would be a good experience and some of them would not be a good experience. Not a good experience doesn’t exactly means that it is not a good education. It could be a good education to other students but it might not good for you maybe it is because of your level, personality, or your age.

Same as other Korean my English study was begin when I was 7th grade, which is first year of middle school in Korea. That is the time that we have English in school subject. My first English teacher was a male teacher and as usual in Korea he was also very strict. He was always carried the stick on his hand. The class was also chalk and talk style, which means lecture based study, and my teacher was also explainer type teacher. Hearing lesson was almost impossible. We did practice how to speak but it is very minor part of our English education. Most of our English education is about grammars and vocabularies. How to memorize a lot of vocabularies was the biggest issue in our English study. In one class we had more than 50 students and lecture type teaching was the only way of teaching English in that situation. Teacher could not care about students’ personality and adaptability level. Students were taking an examination to proof their ability. If the score was not good you would get punished. Only way to control the students was punish them with his stick, and that was the way of involving in his English education. First experience of studying English was not fun. I was even hated studying English.

Learning a new language is not an easy thing for everybody. And my first education of learning English experience was not good. Lecture type of teaching is a not a good quality way of teaching English, but if one teacher has to handle many students that would be the only way of teaching English.

Few years later, I came to USA to get better education. That was when I was 17years old. Even though I finish up to 11th grade, I had to start from 10th grade because of my English skill. I had a few English classes. Those were reading, writing, bilingual and ESL classes. The reading class was based on reading any books and we told the teacher of story about the book that we read. In writing class, the teacher gave us a few topics and then we pick one and we are writing and essay about that topic. Those classes were more like an enabler type of teaching classes. When I was in those classes my English level was very low and I needed a lot of help from the teachers. The bilingual teacher was speaking Korean and English. The bilingual teacher was also teaches us reading, writing, hearing and speaking. Only difference between other teachers and the bilingual teacher was the bilingual teacher was speaking Korean, and helps us to understand more clearly. One more English class that I had was ESL class and it was very serious class.

ESL class was focused on hearing and speaking English. The class was about how to use the English in a real life. My English level was low and especially my hearing and speaking level ware extremely low. The reason why my English hearing and speaking levels were low was because of the lecture type education in Korea. My first ESL teacher was a female teacher and she had a lot of patient. The teacher provided us many types of activities to teach us to hearing and speaking English. She was entertaining us to getting our attention, and she was concentrated on every single student in the class. For example, the teacher showed us the picture and asked us to make a story. Students were making a story and one by one, students were telling teacher the story that they are making. If students needed help, teacher always let the students tried their best to make the story and after that teacher give them some ideas what to do. It could be how to begin the story or how to complete the story. All different levels of students had all different problems. Students were also discussed each other about the picture. In order to do that, we had to speak English and listen how other students were speaking English, and at the same time we are getting close to each other. While we were doing, we were also teaching English to each other and learning English from each other.

While I was in that ESL class I started to understand English what people are talking and I started answer their questions. I started to talk to people and ask them what I want to. I was not even studied as much as when I was in Korea. I believe that the way of how she teaching English was very efficient and very effective.

For my experience of learning English, most important thing is communicate with students. The language is way of communication and learning language must have a lot of communication. Not only communicate between teachers and students but also communication with the real world. Only way of communicating real world inside the class will be communicating with other students. Having a lot of communication with a lot of people will be my plan of teaching English. I will let the students feel the English in the real world.