**ESSAY**

**MODULE 1- LANGUAGE AND LEARNING**

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**My Valuable Experience as a Student and My Dream to Become a Teacher**

1. **Introduction**

Since English is the universal language of this world, a lot of people from every country have their own experiences about learning English. As I was one of the language learners of English as a second language, I could have experienced various teaching methods, teachers, and class materials in Korea. The diverse experiences I have had in the 2000s will serve as the good lesson to me and be the foundation of my future as a teacher of English as a second language. Therefore, I am sure that it is important to think back my experience as a language learner in order to become a competent and good language teacher.

1. **Body**
2. **Language systems and language skills**

Most of all, the way of teaching the subject matter of language, language systems and language skills, has continued to change and become developed. In the early 2000s, most teachers focused on grammar and lexis far more than phonology and function. It led many students to make mistakes using appropriate words in particular situations, especially speaking in broken English. Moreover, Korean teachers hardly realized the importance of the English pronunciation. The concentration of teaching lexis and grammar inevitably provoked that of excessive studying of receptive skills, reading and listening. It caused them to have problems with communication and using English in a productive manner. To illustrate this point, when I look at my high school textbook, I can see many notes of grammar and vocabulary that I took in class. Many high school students at that time were snowed under with abundant English grammar and lexis.

However, I am sure that we should break the bad habit of neglecting communicative and productive skills. Since we are more exposed to English in these modern days than in the past, the importance of communicative skills has increased. Therefore, I think that listening and speaking should come first before reading and writing. When I become a teacher of English, the ultimate goal of my lessons will be enhancing students’ ability to interact with others in English. I am going to make a huge effort to teach the proper usage of appropriate words and expressions to help students associate well with other people. Plus, I will teach students to obtain receptive skills, lexis, and grammar, through integrated-skill approach. It will help their communicative ability to listen to speak, speak to listen, write to listen, and write to read.

1. **Teaching techniques and learner retention**

Secondly, whenever I look back upon my student days, there is no question that there were the worst techniques that teachers used which made boring and ineffective classes to students. Of all things, traditional teaching approaches like ‘jug and mug’ style on listening and reading led students to join their class in a passive way. For instance, one of my English teachers, Lee, preferred lecture-based and ‘chalk and talk’ class. He was always busy in writing down detailed and long notes such as complicated grammar and idioms on the blackboard. Not only that, he forced students to memorize all the written notes and never activated any students’ involvement and team work. As a result, most of students in his class were overwhelmed with the considerable amount of notes. They said that they can hardly remember what he taught and easily fall asleep.

Judging from the Lee’s class, it is essential for teachers to teach in an effective way and to arrest attention from students. Teachers should develop and modernize their teaching techniques. How much students concentrated on class influences on the students’ retention of ability to remember what they have learned. Given a chance to teach English, I wouldencourage students to use English through very familiar methods like fun games and group activities, focusing on team or pair work and interaction. For example, I am going to give students a quiz and let them to discuss one another. The winner will get some scores. This strong sense of rivalry must stimulate a passion for studying English in an active manner. Also, as they continue to discuss and talk with one another, their ability to communicate in English will be naturally improved.

1. **Effective teachers**

Lastly, through my various experiences of English teachers, I noticed that there are some essential characteristics of teachers so as they have an enjoyable and effective class. It is important for teachers to build up a good relationship with students. To illustrate, my middle school English teacher, Rachel, can be a case-in point. Even though Rachel was enthusiastic about her class, she did not have good characteristics as a single person. She did not make an effort to build up a genuine relationship with students. In fact, she was likely to make fun of students who usually are behind their peers. Further, she was never interested in what students are worried about and curious about. Whenever her students ask some questions, she tended to scold them. Thus, many students in her class mentioned that they do not want to take her class any longer since her class is too boring and it discourages students’ confidence.

This experience made me think about some important qualities to be an effective teacher. First, teachers should be honest. There are many teachers who tend to say that they know any things in their fields and have no problems in life. However, these attitudes make students hesitate to come to teacher and ask their questions. Second, it is important for teachers to be able to empathize with their students. Teachers should be able to put themselves in their students’ shoes and try to understand them wholeheartedly. The students will become relaxed to talk about their troubles. At last, teachers should be respectful having a favorable and non-judgmental perspective for students. Their respect for students will encourage and motivate students to be confident themselves.

1. **Conclusion**

To sum up, since I learned a lot from my diverse experiences as a language learner of English, I decided to teach English as a second language to students successfully by the valuable lessons I learned from my experiences. Above all things, I would choose an integrated-skill as my approach to teach my class which is integration of all of language skills. Besides, teaching techniques of my class will be in a active, productive, and communicative way. Lastly, I will make an effort to become a respectful and honest person and to empathize well with others problems so as to become an effective teacher.