**I was a failure in English for a while.**

Kristy

(664)

When I was a student, I did not like studying English. Because I was due to study in order to pass a test and receive the good grade than the purpose that I learned new language. Nevertheless it was not to hate from the first. Then which one was the factor in which I did not like studying English at that time?

It was the middle school time that I start the studying English for the first time. I mentioned previously it was very pleasant and interesting at first to learn the new language. So, I began to go to the English education institute where the native speaker teacher is. There was active, variety, and many methodology like a modern classroom. On the other hand, it was not enjoy learning in the school as much this. Because it was the runs of the boring classes and test. Then, at that time, the schools were like the traditional classrooms that are boring lecture, using only textbooks, and a lot of test and homework. Moreover all teachers teaching me were close to the explainer. They did the bored lecture and only regarded the exam and grade highly. Besides, I had to give up the institute different from the classroom purpose to learn English. And then, I was getting lost the interest for the English more and more. In my case, for successfully learning English, modern classroom type is better than traditional.

Whenever I look back on my school days, I can only think Korean language education system and skills were very limited which it is not only English. If I compare the English institute which I went to the middle school times, it was focused on all four skills are including many kinds of activities to practice English. It made more fun and enjoyable. They taught me how language uses with situation. By doing like that I could acquire the language naturally which is not only language function but also grammar, phonology, and lexis. On the other hand, like during high school days, the purpose of English learning was for getting a high grade from test and Korean SAT to enter the university. So every teacher was explainer and focused on receptive skills like reading and listening. With a listening test, I just listened to the tape recordings and checked the right answer. And then, teacher spent most of time explaining grammar and vocabulary. I was busy taking notes and listening to the teacher. To learn language successfully, it should not be limited one system and skill.

Even if I reflect now, I get to think over doubt whether my English teachers in the school did the effective teaching for learning language in spite of being the good teachers. As I mentioned before, Korean education system only need to teach skills for taking test. That is why most of English teacher in Korea, they knows the subject matter well and well organized. Since then I went to England to study English. When I was abroad, English acquisition was easy and natural. The teacher was involver and enabler type, who guides students to fully concentrate on their studies. The teacher gave me different subjects and different methods of studying. He kept monitoring our performance and made a note of our errors for feedback. It is not to mean Korean teacher don’t have a qualification than British teacher. But as a learner, I need a more effective teaching methodology to learn a language. Not for test.

For now, I am not a failure as a leaner for English. However I was a failure for a while. The reason was limited Korean education systems and environment for learning English. I think that environment like modern classroom including the interest and enjoyment is the most important, even if I learn not only language but also something. And moreover it is not limited to teach one skill. A teacher should give information about all skills and have qualities for effective teaching.