My experience of Japanese-learning

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Word counts:750

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Conclusion

Introduction

Wow, finally I got the 1st prize of Japanese competence test and I was chosen as a representative of my university. This means I can travel Japan for 15days free of charge. I majored Japanese literature and Japanese language but at university I could not improve my Japanese conversation ability well. So I decided to go to Japanese language institute in Jong-ro, Seoul. Here I could enjoy learning Japanese with new methodology of Mr. Hujiwara who is the famous instructor of institute.

1. Traditional and modern teaching

When I took the lectures of Mr. Hujiwara, I was surprised at the ways of foreign language studying. Till that time I had studied Japanese over two years at university but the way of study was traditional and boring because what the teachers did were writing their instruction on board and letting students read books . Most students were passive in the classroom owing to lack of activities and any material. They took a note or highlighted the important sentence,

It made the students difficult to concentrate on the class. That was teacher centered lectures, so students were listening or reading and there were not many opportunities to speak Japanese. Students were passive.

But in the lecture of Mr. Hujiwara, he divided the class into teams with five students based on their Japanese competence level. Each group has different level .So we competed to be the highest level. In the highest level, there also were students who are Japanese instructors in university. We debated and dictated news of NHK and summarized the editorials of “Mainichi news” every day. Especially, in case of debate I could not decide my side between agreement and disagreement. So I had to study and think about opinions of both sides and vocabulary in advance .Also Mr. Hujiwara liked group activities such as role play, pair work and using hand outs. I really enjoyed going to Mr. Hujiwara’s class and my Japanese skill was getting better. Also I could make great friends and my goal at the same time. It influenced my school records and I could get the 1st prize in my university.

2. Adult learner characteristics

When I was a student of Mr. Hujiwara, students met at the traditional tea café in Insa-dong every Wednesday and Friday to study Japanese for 2hours. Most members had their own goals and worked at relevant in Japanese They did their best to study Japanese. Also, their Japanese skill was very good. But they wanted to improve more and wanted to be the level of native speakers. Furthermore, they have their own experiences and knowledge about their world, we could discuss variety topics. I felt it was very helpful after class because we discussed social problems or governmental policies. It means each student could gain some information about society from other students.

3. Teacher types

My university professors were Explainer. They always used a blackboard and text books or handouts for quiz. They also gave students a lot of homework that was writing Chinese letters, vocabulary or sentences on a notebook. Although we tried to attend class, it was hard for us. That was teacher- centered and there was little chance to speak Japanese but we had to take an oral test. On the other hand, Mr. Hujiwara was an Enabler. Although he was a Japanese but he didn’t talk very much but he let us debate and help each other. Moreover, he encouraged us to make “study group”. Sometimes he supervised on each study group. I don’t want to judge who was right or who was wrong. I am just telling about different teacher’s types. I found both of them were very good teachers in my life.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I have met a lot of teachers; they wanted to teach me everything they know. And I learned Japanese in various ways from them, because their types were different. It was helpful for me. Learning and mastering second language is so hard, if I do not have a goal and finally I might not be patient. I always try to keep in mind that all students have their own strengths and abilities of intelligence and I want to be the teacher who tries to find their intelligence and motivate them. In the end they can accomplish their goals in my class.