Coming into bloom with respect

“I cannot teach anyone anything. I can only make them think.”

- Socrates

Jay Oh

83th WD TESOL

Benjamin Chavez Valencia

Wed. Dec. 12th

INTRODUCTION

“I cannot teach anyone anything. I can only make them think”. – Socrates

A few questions could be brought up from this simple quote.

“Well, then what is a teacher supposed to do in class?” “How could I make students think?” These questions are related to my beliefs about second language learning environment and teaching techniques.

BODY

Teaching should be based on communication and not delivering knowledge but guiding students to journey finding their own ways to learn themselves.

Back in 2006, I was taking a Business course for getting a diploma at SRSA.

Students had a variety of nationalities which meant the teacher was supposed to cover not only teaching about business but also managing all the students with different English levels. Here I met my best teacher in my life, Jack who was from Scott Land. He had changed my life, philosophy of teaching. He has been my role model. Several reasons should be given to support my idea.

First of all, his class was exactly opposite from the conventional class. Most classes were teacher-centered by one - way communication traditionally. It had less time to speak for students. Jack’s class however, was really students-centered by two - way communication. It is said that modern classes have more students’ involvement. Jack attracted all the students to participate in the activities and had them involved. Additionally, he always organized a class with live demonstrations, pictures and scaffolding. He didn’t hesitate using his body and everything to have students understand what he was saying. Also he got students teach and learn with one another through pair and group activities. He seemed to be an enabler that never gave the answers. He conducted and drew the answers by having students question and journey the activity with pictures, wall charts given. At the beginning of the class, using pictures was felt childish which made me doubt he would treat students like kids. After a while it turned out that the class based on many visual aids and approaching them with the easiest way was so effective that everyone passed the course without problems. Furthermore, all the students had a special bond in class after sharing difficulties and joining many kinds of activities in group.

Second of all, he understood what adult students were like. It is considered that adults need to be shown respect. Jack always treated students with respect. He was quite strict in class that Students had to follow his instructions all the time, though. He never let the students get distracted or be lazy in class. It is also believed that adults are goal-oriented and self- directed. Jack knew what he was doing. He always reminded students of why they were there. Additionally, he never stopped students realizing what they were doing and keeping motivated.

At last but not least, Jack was regarded as an effective teacher. He really listened to his students well and had a good sense of humor. It made his class more enjoyable and meaningful.

Jack’s class was the most valuable, impressive learning experience ever.

When it comes to language, adults and children are in the same condition.

It is said that Children can absorb what they learn like a sponge. Adults however, have a trouble understanding and accepting it the way it is. They are short of memory as well. On the other hand, more various experiences, specific purposes that adults have could be a big advantage for learning language. When people start learning language, it doesn’t matter whether they are children or adults. They will sit, crawl, stand up and take a first step by themselves.

Here is what a teacher has to do. Guide them to the light.

CONCLUSION

A number of people start learning second language, get frustrated, give up and start it over again and again. They have been and are beginners at all times.

Adults who failed learning second language so many times don’t know what they are doing is right or wrong. They are all in confusion. They should be given instructions and respect equally.

Therefore Teachers will be there where students need for help and guide them to think and find the answers to solve the problems. Students are ready to bloom with unrevealed potentiality and should be watered and cared by teachers to come into bloom.