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My third language experiential

Education does not mean teaching people to know what they don’t know: it means teaching them to behave as they do not behave.

- By John Ruskin-

Every person has some language learning experience like an unforgettable weather that is horrible or enjoyable. People could have overcome barriers, eventually enjoyed the result, or suffered and ended up with nothing. One way or the other! I like to share my third language learning experience with you, which has the combination of either ways.

When I was 20 years old my parents sent me to Breamar College in Canada Toronto to learn my second foreign language – English. And I stayed in Canada for 8years. You may have a question: “How come the English is your ‘second’ foreign language?” That because my father is a Chinese and my mother is a Korean, so that I can speak two languages perfectly when I was 20 years old.

My English greatly improved after I moved to Canada. I had to listen to it every day, everywhere. I had to understand not only English spoken with good pronunciation. I also had to understand English with all sorts of accents. Because Canada is a multi-culture country! I had to speak it every day and everywhere except at home.

But there was a most important person in my language learning life in Canada. His name was David, which is my teacher when I was in the ESL school. I was impressed by his enthusiasm and skill in teaching. Because his lectures were always well prepared and clearly delivered. His students appreciated the face that he believed in what he taught and that he always intellectually stimulating.

In David’s class there was a memorable activity that I still use in my speaking class. David gave three cards to each student. With this card, each student should come to the front of the classroom and describe the word in the card. But you can’t act it out, only describe with sentences. Of course we only used simple words to describe it, and a bit difficult to us, but it was fun. It gave us lots of chance to describe something in English. The point is you can’t act out, you have to describe only in English sentences, so you can improve your speaking.

He instilled a lot of confidence in us during the class. When he respond to the errors what we did, he always tolerant of us and only correct our major errors and also gave us lots of fun. He used zany commands and humorous skits to showing us that learning language can be fun. Because of him I never thought English was difficult to learn.

David assigned pretty much homework to us every day. But no one complained about it, because the homework he gave us was so fun. For example: searching for attest aliens’ existence, secret the about the Pyramid, the secret of Bermuda Triangle and so on. It makes us curious about the homework.

Now I realized that he want us to be learn through observing actions as well as by ourselves without pushing. 

Several years later, our lives all have changed a lot, but the most dramatic one is that I became an English teacher, which I have never thought of in my childhood. When I stand behind the teacher’s desk, I imagine that I stand before a stage.

It said that languages open doors for you. And I totally agree with it, because it is the essence of human communication! Also my language learning experience proves that it is true!