My Success Learning Japanese

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‘What are your reasons of success or failure learning the language?’ is an intriguing topic of discussion at hand. The answer to this question can vary greatly depending on the individual experiences. Thus, some may not agree with me, but I had success learning Japanese according to the following three reasons: there was a great classroom atmosphere, my instructor’s teaching style was very effective on me, and my teacher was one of the best ones I have ever met.

The first reason of being successful in learning Japanese was because of great class atmosphere. Since I took this Japanese class at the university, everyone in the class was not forced to take the class, but it was “them” who decided to put Japanese class in their schedule. Regardless of the difference of the reasons we had for taking the class, it was wonderful to have classmates who had some kind of “reasons” which made them goal-oriented. Also, students were very passionate and always willing to participate in class, and this means they were autonomous and self-directed which both are the characteristics of adult learners. Because of these reasons we helped out and motivated each other which led this class to friendly and great atmosphere.

Second reason is that my instructor’s style of teaching for the class suited my personality perfectly. Since my teacher, Muramatsu sensei, was not old professor, her style was closer to the modern teaching. So, the class was less teacher-centered, but more students-centered and we participated in activities such as group works and discussions. Therefore, the class was very interactive, more engaging and she checked on each one of us how much we understand the class materials while we were doing activities with class partners. This was very helpful for me since I am very tactile-kinesthetic learner and her frequent checking saved me from a trouble of asking her questions after class. Also, among areas of multiple intelligences, I being verbal-linguistic, bodily-kinesthetic, and visual-spatial was not a problem for this class. She talked to us in Japanese 90 percent of the time and used many colorful posters and hand-made vocabulary cards at the same time. Uses of colors made me focus, but also not reading long passage would be another reason that helped me continue to have sparkles in my eyes during Japanese class at the time.

Last but not least, she was one of the greatest teachers I have ever met. Muramatsu sensi was not only good at teaching but she also knew what traits the teacher should have. She pays attention to students one by one. I am sure it is very hard thing to do regardless of the size of the class, but my teacher was very patient with the students and showed us great respect. Also, she was very enthusiastic and had a smile on her face both during class and her office hours. The professor always had her door opened and I could see that she wants to and tries to help students in every possible way. Once, I had some questions for her before the exam, but I could not make it to the office hours and I told her this. Because she was a really nice person, I expected her to ask me whether I can make it if she extends her office hours, but I was wrong about that. Muramatsu sensei asked my schedule and she said I can come over whenever as long as it does not conflict with her class schedule. So, she waited until 4 o’clock only for me when she is usually at home resting. Not especially because of my experience, but also from others’, I noticed that she being authentically herself makes her an excellent teacher.

In this regard, learning Japanese was a definite success for me. Once again, although there might be some other opinions different from mine, these are my reasons: my class had wonderfully positive class atmosphere, used effective methods suited to my learning styles and was taught by an incredible professor.