The English Journey of Joy

Joy

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela -

I would like to introduce my English journey to you now. Even though it was very hard and a complicated time, it made me an English teacher today. I am so pleased to write about my story here.

I graduated from Yeung Nam University five years ago. During my University days, I majored in industrial design and I studied many different kinds of industrial design in detail; transportation, product, environment design etc. After six semesters, I got a year break and I went to Canada to improve my English skills. Even though my major was design, I had to study English because most of companies in South Korea required a high score of the TOEIC and TOEFL exam. English was not an option anymore. It was essential to enter a good company in South Korea. I had studied English at Western Town College located in Vancouver, Canada from September, 2006 to August, 2007. While I studied there, I took TYC (Teaching Young Children) class and met teacher John Doe. I had nothing to do with teaching English that time but I chose TYC class because of my teacher John Doe’s good reputation among the students. As I heard, he had wide experience in teacher training and helped students to adapt our styles of teaching to accommodate the needs and motivations of young children. He was enthusiastic and an inspiring teacher. One of the reasons why I liked him the most was his understanding and sensitivity to students’ needs. I believe that a teacher is like a parent to students and a good teacher should understand that students’ ability to learn can be different depending on their age, gender, personality and their environment. There were many students from different countries studying English though he was so unbiased to everyone. He respected his students and treated them all equally. I think he might be enabler. He knew about the subject matter and about methodology to make students understand. In addition, he knew how to build effective working relationships and established a good classroom atmosphere.

I learned a lot about how to teach young learners in theory from him, then I had a chance to go to a primary school in Vancouver for practicum. I took some time to observe the sponsor teacher and took notes about classroom management and activities. After that, I could lead an activity such as reading a story, playing a game and singing a song with children. It was an amazing experience that I could teach young learners who speak only English. During the practicum, I found many differences between western and Korean education. For example, in Korea, teachers spend most of class time using the board to explain things and punish easily if the students do something wrong. So Korean students were usually under a lot more pressure to do well in school. However, in Canada, teachers move around the classroom trying to notice any such problems and encouraging students to complete the task in the intended way. Further, the students are talking rather more than the teacher in the class. Canadian students seem a lot freer than Korean students. As a result, Korean teaching way is much more traditional than Canadian I mean western teaching way. I prefer the way how the western people teach and learn. I felt my teacher John Doe and education environment of Canada influenced me for the better. End of that course I finally got TYC (Teaching Young Children) certificate from Western Town College.

Through the experiences in Canada, I decided to be an English teacher like my teacher John Doe. After I became a teacher, I tried to teach as I learned and I still keep them all in my mind. I want to say that my English Journey was successful.

Nelson Mandela said,

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. ”

The education environment and experience in Canada made a great impact on my life. I decided to change my school major and this became a huge turning point of my life. As Mandela said I do believe that education has power to change the world. I’m closing this essay with a thought of becoming a person who can change the world.