Ami

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614

English and Me

Since last century, English has become common language in the world and now, every country wants to speak English, not except Korea where I was born and I am living. My country became obsessed with this language so education system decided to put English in textbook mandatory for learning as a second language. I had to learn English in the school but that was not fun at all because teachers were total explainer and “chalk and talk”. Literally, it was traditional teaching. That was why and how I was loosing interest in English. Despite all the my negative feeling of English, my mood for this language was changed as positive after I moved to the USA.

In 2009, I had opportunity to go to the USA for learning English. I hesitated to go because I didn’t want to learn it and realize that I need it later somehow. However, My mother asked me to come (my mother has been living the USA since 2006.) and I agreed with her only for the reason that I wanted to see her. In March 2009, I arrived in California, USA. I was very happy to see mother and having new experience that I never have had before. Everything was so cool. I made Korean friends and hung out almost every night. But when I see in the past, there were two people that changed me. These people came to me couple months later. When I was in language school in San Jose, I was struggling with English, even getting frustrated. I could listen but I couldn’t say what I wanted to tell. There was a teacher whose name was Marina, grammar teacher. She taught and explained class very well but she was not native speaker of English. Whenever I was frustrated, she encouraged me that she knew English was hard to learn but she did so I could do. Also, she told me to ask anything to her and she would understand me because she was already through that process what I was doing at that time. What an enabler! That saying touched me so badly because I’ve never met that kind of teacher before who had empathy for me. She was the one who made me think to be a teacher. Dr. Norman came to me a year later. After I transferred to community college, I was apathetic about learning English again. I took classes that I could get a good grade easily. One day, I took speech class with my mother. Actually, she recommended this class because of Instructor. She said he was good. First day of the class, the instructor introduced himself and asked me to call him ‘Dr. Norman’ who was such a great involver now I’m thinking. He was pretty tough grader, but had a lot of sense of humor and wonderful reaction. Very beginning of the class, he always made me and students focused by making joke. I felt that was very refreshed and good idea. Also, the joke was fun. After the class finished, I took some of his other classes until I moved back to Korea. He was the one who made me think appropriate joke in the class is pretty important. And it has to be fun.

Now, I am in Korea and loosing my English slowly. But I want to say my language learning experience was very successful. I learned lots of things from two people, Marina and Dr. Norman whom I respect. To be close to them, also for my dream, I’m taking TESOL class and I hope I will be fun teacher who has great teaching skills.