**TM 87 TESOL Essay 1 Yong Woo**

As I'm preparing to become a TESOL teacher, it is making me reflect on the way that I learned English. I've been learning English for more than 20 years. During that time I have had a lot of different teachers that teach in different ways. Let me tell you about the experiences I've had and how this will influence me in my English teaching style.

When I was three years old my family moved to the USA and lived there for 8 years. I went from elementary school to the 5th grade. In the elementary school I went to there was a program called ESL to help foreign students learn English quickly. In the ESL classes the teacher was an involver, she would say some short phrases and the students would repeat them. The lessons focused on phonology and function. We practiced listening and speaking skills a lot.

When I came back to Seoul the English education I got was totally different. During the six years in middle school and high school, English was mostly taught by the GTM method. The teachers were explainers the teachers would write the subject of the lesson on the chalkboard and explain the grammar in Korean. The only time English was spoken was practicing the sample sentences in the text books. Even though six years is a long time I don't remember anything I learn about English in middle school and high school.

When I was a university student I had a class called "English Debate". In that class we debated about difficult issues like legalizing prostitution and were graded on the merits of our contentions. It was the first time I had an enabler teacher. The teacher would watch as students took sides on an issues and debate. She would only intervene when the debate was getting too heated. At the beginner of the semester I didn't know what to do. Up to this point all I had to do as a student was follow the instruction the teacher gave me; but in this class I had to think for myself. Even though the teacher in the English debate class spoke the least of all my English teachers, I learned the most from that teacher.

When I looked back I see that I learned English mostly by an explainer type of teacher teaching in the GTM method. Even though the explainer style teaching and the GTM method is great I do not see myself using it a lot as a TESOL teacher. As a TESOL teacher I will teach my class in an enabler style most of the time. I think the only way to learn English communication is by communicating; so my class will do a lot of pair work talking and small group discussions. Before ending the class I will pick one person to explain the lesson to the other students.