Second Language Acquisition

The first time I started learning second language was when I was 14years old. The second language was, of course English. I started taking a private lesson before entering middle school. At that time, we, Korean students, learned English from middle school but now students learn English as a second language from third grade in elementary school.

But my first language experience was failed. I think the reason of the failure is that the teacher was an explainer. The teacher taught me for 3 years. During the class, I only learned reading and grammar. I had to memorize 30 words and had to be tested everyday. At school, It was not different. The English teachers were all Korean. They gave us traditional education lesson. For example, the teacher brought a stick for punishing into a classroom and the way the students sat was in a row. We only received receptive English lesson such as reading and grammar but didn’t get productive lessons like speaking and writing. I think the purpose of learning language is communication. Even though I have been studying English since I was 14, I can’t speak and write my opinion in English well. Since I haven’t spoken to any English speakers in my school days, I am always nervous whenever I talk to foreigners. To develop a good speaking ability and writing skill, classrooms need to have modern atmosphere.

In contrast to, the atmosphere in the modern classroom take students participate in class actively. They get multi-cultural education, discussion and communication. Teachers often comment on the importance of ‘rapport’ between teachers and students. Especially, there core teacher characteristics that help to create an effective learning environment. These are respect (a positive and non-judge mental regard for another person), empathy (being able to see things from the other person’s perspective, as if looking through their eyes) and authenticity (being oneself without hiding behind job titles, roles or masks) When a teacher has these three qualities, the relationships, within the classroom are likely to be stronger and deeper, and communication between people much more open and honest. The educational climate becomes positive, forward looking and supportive.

What is the purpose of learning language is I think it is for communication. Since, I think the important goal of learning English language speak Even though there would be many effective learning methods what is most important between teacher and student is ‘rapport’. If we have the relationship between teachers and students in the classroom that we are very likely to be stronger, deeper and more communicate. Also, students in class will be more open and honest.

Unfortunately I didn’t have any modern classroom atmosphere experience. However, as time goes by, the thought about learning language is different from the past in Korea. In the past, the reason of learning English was to get knowledge by reading from English books but now the world is changed. We can meet foreigners much easier than before. We can get something from rather communication than reading. Fortunately, nowdays Korean government and schools know about the importance of English speaking ability and they try to improve students’ English speaking ability. That’s why many teachers want to get TESOL these days. I’m happy to be the part of them. Also, I’m happy to get an opportunity of taking TESOL class.