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1st Essay Assignment

TESOL 01 Language & Learning

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If someone ask me about my hardest English experience, I will say 'It is when I was university student! I wished not to come tomorrow!'. Ironically, If someone ask me about my most valuable English experience, then I will say that again but, I would add 'however' between two sentences.

Before University, I usually studied 'teacher's study'. It means I did it perfectly that every homework which my teacher gave me as a task. They taught me how to get the right answer. Even some teachers gave me a right answer directly. I could get an A without troubles. It was just a test about who can memorize a lot. It was totally traditional classroom to study. Students are kinds of audiences to watch the 'teacher's show'. Even though we don't want to be, we had to be passive students. There was a low students' participation, only teacher centered. Students should take notes and memorize. Finally, many students couldn't stop dozing in class. And sadly, I also did. It is really hard to force myself to stay awake. Teachers might be hard, too. As a teacher, they have difficulties in controlling their students and that could be lose their beliefs in what they are teaching.

However, at the University, I experienced entirely different world. It was English writing class. Until now, I can't forget my memory of precious experience. Those days, I was really stressful about my first American professor. Before taking his class, I was very nervous how to catch up the foreigner's class. But, when I took his class, it was not difficult to follow. Of course, he tried to slow and convey exact information, but he did not speak all the times in class. During 2 hours, he just spoke for 30 or 40 minutes. He divided us into some groups, gave us some time to discuss about topic, and then let us make a presentation. He was a facilitator, not an explainer. He let us lead our class ourselves. Sometimes we felt uncomfortable with pressure. Not only I but my classmates sometimes wanted to run away. But we didn't. Why? Because it was fun. Though we spoke wrong sentences, we didn't care about that. Because we could correct it when we write our essays. Even thought it was wrong in essay, he underlined some mistakes and gave us one more chance to correct it. He wanted to correct some mistakes by ourselves. Also, we had a variety of activities and group works. When we had some group works, he was just look around and gave a little advise or some questions, not a right answer. And every time he gave us confidence. I got the lowest score on my first essay assignment. At that time, I was really embarrassed. However, he taught me how to write. I experienced totally different learning language. This was a modern teaching. I got an A grade at the end of the semester. If I didn't take that class and I didn't meet him, could I have confidence of writing? I'm not sure. I can tell that it was a success work as language learning.

I definitely had some objects that I have to get a good grade and improve my writing skill. So, I had no choice but to challenge in writing. It made me do my best. I was autonomous and self-directed. And, my professor didn't say any negative words about my poor essay at first. He respected me. He gave me lots of encouragement all the time. That encouragement is really helpful for me to learn English. I am sure that not only I but every student who took that class can agree with my opinion.

From him, I thought deeply about a good teacher. Teacher is just not an explainer. As a facilitator, a teacher should have to give students numerous opportunities to study themselves. And this teacher will be an enabler. An enabler is an ideal teacher who makes communication between teacher and student, student and student in class. This type of teacher may become a guide or a counselor when teaching. And a teacher should create an environment where learning can take place. Through this process, students will be able to real 'learning'.

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