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TESOL 01: Second Language Acquisition Assignment

My second language environment story begins with loud yelling and physical punishment. When I was high school student, my English teacher was known for strict way of education and quirky standards of discipline. He forced his students to memorize lots of vocabularies and dialogues without any explanation. Also, he did not believe in his students’ capabilities. He never asked his students a single question written in the textbook, and it was because of the fact that he supposed his students do not know the answers. Even worse, his English pronunciations were so bad that nobody understood what he read, and it led students cloudland. To put is simply, he only gave students a lecture. Therefore, I would like to say my second language environment that I have experienced in my high school was total failure. At that time, I hated English subject and most of the time, I got bad scores in English.

After getting into university, however, I had two times of chances to change my mind about English. The first chance was the teachers. The English professors who I met in university were very talented and passionate about what they teach. Also they respected their students as adults. According to Malcolm S. Knowles who is an American adult educator, there are 5 characteristics of adult learners. First of all, adults are autonomous and self-directed. They come to class because they have willing. Second, adults have life experiences and knowledge. Sometimes, adult learners can be experts in other subjects. Third, adults are goal-oriented. They come to class for a reason. Also, adults are relevancy-oriented. Adult students need a specific reason for learning and doing something. Finally, adults need to be shown respect. They want to be treated equally. I guess the professors from my university had known these five characteristics of adult learners, and it guided students being active and able. It was complete opposite of what I had experienced in my high school.

The second chance was the way of learning. There are multiple intelligences like verbal-linguistic, logical-mathematical, visual-spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalistic. When I was a high school student, I could not realize my intelligence type. Now I think that I am more like tactile-kinnetic person, not audio-visual learner or logical-mathematical learner. However, English lectures that I took in my high school were just so logical. There were lots of individual students whose intelligence types were very different, so teachers were supposed to be able to give variety types of lecture, but he could not. In conclusion, I personally believe that teachers should be experts and be passionate about what they teach, and should take deep care of individual students. I am not talking about traditional classrooms and teachers were wrong and inappropriate, and modern classrooms are right in every way, but, modern classrooms are more suitable and well developed for individual learners. However, the most important matter is that the person concerned education should keep studying about how to teach effectively.