TESOL 01: Second Language Acquisition Assignment

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I think it is very important to meet a good teacher so that we can acquire the second language. I would like to talk about the teacher whom I learned English from when I was a middle school student. She was the teacher who had several characteristics, that is to say, she was an Explainer, Involver and Enabler. On the one hand she was strict, but on the other she was easy-going teacher. Though she worked at a very small and traditional middle school which was in a small country, she tried to adapt many modern materials for the students.

I learned English for the first time when I entered to middle school. I started to learn it from the alphabet and the simplest words. I had to memorize all of English words which were on the textbook, and I had a vocabulary test every class. The teacher gave a card “Very Good” to the students who got a perfect score in the test. And she gave some small gifts to those students who had many cards at the end of every month. At that time I was so young and it was good enough to motivate me to study English hard. As the amount of words that I knew was increased, I started having interest in English.

There was held a festival at the school in every year. The teacher prepared a script in English for the students to do a play at the festival. The school was in a small country and the classrooms were not modern but traditional, and there were not any computer, TV, screen and so on. So we had to make most of props ourselves. We gathered and practiced playing every day after school. It was very hard time, but I realized that I became in rich in vocabulary and gained confidence in speaking loudly in English.

The teacher introduced pen-pal system to us, and I started write letters to the foreign friend who lived in USA. At first I copied most of the sentences from the pen-pal guide book, but as time went past I could add my own sentences to them. Whenever I asked some questions about writing letters of the teacher, she explained very kindly.

Sometimes she introduced some of famous pop songs to us, it was very good for me to improve my English listening skills. I still remember some of songs like ‘Tears in Heaven’, ‘Last Christmas’, ‘Take me home country road’ and so on. This also made me to love to listen the radio program ‘Music Camp by Bae Chul-Su’ which was famous for pop-songs when I was a high school student.

Thanks to the teacher I became to have a passion in English. And on vacations when I was a high school student I used to go to the academy to have a chance to talk with foreigners.

Now I am an adult, but I still have the passion that I had in my youth, although I could not study English because of giving birth to my son and bringing him up for several years. That is why I decided to learn Tesol. I hope to work as a teacher like her so that many children can have a passion for learning English. I think that passion is the most necessary factor to acquire the second language and the passion is made by the teacher.