92th WD Sunmi Lee(Esther)

I remember the first time I studied English. I was thirteen. My teacher was very traditional and very strict. I had to learn English through rote memorization rather than an approach which promoted language acquisition. At the end of the term, I felt like a failure as my marks in English were the lowest of all my subjects.

At that time, I thought I had very little linguistic ability.

As a result of my experiences traveling and working overseas, I have discovered a passion for learning other languages and working among other cultures. I really enjoy meeting new people, learning about other cultures, trying new food and, of course growing in other languages!

When I was in South Africa, I had the opportunity to study English with African friends who come from many different countries in Africa such as Congo, Mozambiq, Gabong. It was very different from my earlier experience and the instruction was more modern in its approach and the teacher was more involver and enabler. In Korea, we had few opportunities to practice speaking. In Africa, the approach integrates reading, writing, listening and many opportunities to practice speaking.

Even though my classroom English experience in South Africa was just over three months long, I had many opportunities to practice and improve my English as one of the dominant languages in South Africa is English. I taught a daily pre-school class in English and interacted with other teachers and parents in English.

Every day I was immersed in English, talking, singing(musical intelligence) telling stories, playing with the children, engaging in hands-on activities(kinesthetic), counting, doing number problems(encouraging logical thinking/math).

Through my experiences in the classroom, I solidified my English abilities in a very natural way, practicing my English and achieving more fluency, acquiring the language more and more through practice.

It was a great experience!

Since I came back to Korea last year, I have not used English in my culture so far. So I feel like I became false beginner but I believe I will improve more than before with good people at Times Media.