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 **TESOL SS92, ESSAY #1**

**THE TESOL COURSE AND ITS UNEXPECTED DELIGHT**

 It has been almost 7 years since I last taught at an English language institute. The original goal for the registration of this TESOL course was to acquire a teaching certificate that can be used for employment at a local junior high school or at a university. But to my surprise, with the knowledge that can be learned through this course, this TESOL course is proven to have many more practical applications than expected. This course helped me to rethink about the foreign environment that I assimilated into after immigrating to the U.S., it is helping me to distinguish between and to improve upon the teaching methods that I used in the past, and this course has helped me to envision new job opportunities outside of the normal classroom setting in a corporate environment.

 When referring to the *Techniques & Principles in Language Teaching* textbook, I realized that I already had the opportunity to learn English first hand through the different teaching methods while growing up. The elementary school that I attended in S. Korea before immigrating to the U.S. used the Community Language Learning and Grammar-Translation Method to teach the basics of English. When I arrived in the U.S. and learned English though the ESL program from 3rd grade to 5th grade at a local elementary school, I learned English through the Audio-Lingual Method and a basic form of the Communicative Language Teaching method. Afterwards, I was able to learn English through a combination of other teaching methods as I advanced through higher learning.

 When I first arrived in S. Korea, I worked at two different English language institutes that used different teaching methods, and the teaching methods and techniques that I used were integrated into the class curriculum without actually knowing and understanding about them. I was taught how to teach English to the students following the textbooks published by the institute. The teaching methods used at this institute included a mixture of the Audio-Lingual Method, Direct Method, and the Communicative Language Teaching method depending on the level of the class. The information and the techniques that can be used to teach the students were quite limited. Since there was more flexibility at the second language institute in a one on one classroom setting, I was able to use a mixture of the teaching methods and techniques as I created my own curriculum.

 While participating in the different group activities during the course, I realized that there were many more practical applications to the information acquired through the course that can be readily be used outside of the classroom. The TESOL course helped me to envision job opportunities at a corporate setting working with many different professionals in English guided team building workshops. I can imagine myself facilitating English lectures on many different work related topics teaching them the tools of communication and to work together more effectively.

 We only finished the first weekend of class with 7 more weekends to go. I was able to attain a lot of useful information already from just the first two introductory classes. I am confident that I will be able to gain more practical knowledge and hands on experience throughout the next 7 weekends of class. This TESOL course was originally a “means” to new job opportunities, but to my unexpected delight, will be an ever more valuable experience.