Tesol 93 -1st week

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Title : Second language Acquisition Assignment

So far I have learned lots of English classes for several reasons such as a developing myself or just getting score of requirement courses. I remember some classes were boring and really ineffective. However I had a successful experience fortunately, which led me to get much more confidence and self-motivation. I think one of my successful experiences about second language learning was from the teacher, Batty Carlson.

First of all, I would like to explain who she is. She was my first ESL English teacher. Although she was fifty’s, I was surprised her class was so experimental, communicative and cooperative. Since all classmates were international students from different places and different majors, we could not understand each other deeply at begin. But in my memory, Batty tried to create good rapport in class and made students feel comfortable. I think it is an essential to international students who are afraid of speaking English, especially in the beginning of semester. She was waiting till students spoke out something and then tried to understand or share the feelings together about what students said. She was a good example how I naturally showed respect, empathy and authenticity to others for better environment of learning. In order to have good rapport in the classroom, I didn’t mind hesitate to speak English and to keep myself open to people. Throughout the class, students were getting closer, and finally we could approach to much better achievements.

Next, there are successful keys of learning English according to her teaching methods. In the beginning of semester I felt she was also a kind of explainer teachers, but later she was more like an enable teacher. For instance, one day she brought one piece of paper with more than 20 vocabularies and asked to students. “Have you heard those words?” It wasn’t easy for me because I couldn’t find many of words in dictionary. She wanted students to research the worlds, and suggested asking to native speakers like neighbors living around us or friends in other classes. When I got that task, I was little embarrassed, but It was much more challengeable than just learning in text-books. I usually did many researches during her class, and then made a team to discuss and find the best answer from each person’s survey. So I walked around and chat with others in the classroom. Finally she gave us questions and asked suitable situations for each word, so that students naturally could check errors by themselves. These experiences were totally an autonomous and active learning, and I felt teacher’s more like an observer and managerial during the class. In the end I could have strong intrinsic motivation of learning English, and deeply understood a studying.

In addition, another effective teaching was to do a presentation speech in front of people. Since I had gotten so many kinds of chalk& talk ways of traditional classes, I never knew how to explain my opinions in front of others formally. Of course first presentation was so hard to stand and speak, but I was getting better as time went on. That method seems like a more focused on improving productive skills, but I think procedures for preparing presentation is the most significant key to evaluate linguistic skills overall.

In conclusion, I have been appreciating her experimental teaching. After I had an opportunity to take her class, I felt I was changing more actively and enthusiastically for a learning second language. I hope I also would be an influential teacher to someone in the future. For that I will continuously improve my qualities, characteristics and attitude to become a better teacher.