TESOL 01 Language & Learning

Essay Assignment

**Second Language Acquisition**

**TESOL 93 weekday class**

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Looking back my own experience learning English as second language, I have two things to mention. The one is successful but unfortunately the other was not. And it’s closely related with the motivation. In other words, we can put it ‘intrinsic motivation’ and ‘extrinsic motivation.

When I was a teenager, I am not that interested in learning English. I didn’t know the reason why I studied English. And both teachers and students got used to ‘explainer’. Nobody had an objection for that kind of traditional way. Because at that time, we were only busy getting good grades to enter the university. The English subject mainly consisted of grammar and reading. It might sound sort of silly, though. That methods such as ‘chalk and talk’, ‘jug and mug’ with high TTT (teacher talking time) worked when it comes to getting high points. I don’t want to blame the grammar-centered education system or traditional teacher type now. It also doesn’t mean grammar is unnecessary and our teachers are not competitive. Rather, in my opinion, the grammar is kind of shortcut when foreigners learn other second language. And our teachers had a lot of passion and rapport between teachers and student. But I have to admit that traditional classroom activities definitely made most students think English was very boring and difficult. And personally it didn’t help me motivate myself to be willing to learn English hard enough, too.

According to Malcolm Knowles, the father of adult learning, the adult learners are independent and self-directed, goal-oriented based on their experience and knowledge. In my case, it surely does. I like traveling a lot. As they said ‘Travel broadens the mind’. For me, it not only broadened the mind but also let me study English by myself. And I think sometimes if I had known English is very fun like this, I should have studied earlier. Through that kind of experiences, I could learn their cultures as well as their language and found that I overlooked the function of English per se. The language is for communication not for anything else.

I enrolled in TOEIC class because I had to submit my TOEIC transcript for promotion. Even though the class was absolutely traditional type class and instructor was also real explainer, I was so happy to be there studying English. Thing’s been changed thanks to my goal-oriented motivation. It was not that boring anymore. It’s more like exciting. But one day I found myself who cannot speak English fluently. I decided to go study abroad to get used to English. I could meet ‘explainer’, ‘involver’, ‘enabler’ and ‘entertainer’ type teachers. Sometimes, I misunderstood some of teachers because they always have us look up the words through dictionary or internet. And some of them let us play during the class all the time. Until I am taking this TESOL course, I didn’t know what kinds of teacher types are and how it’s effective respectively.

When it comes to the effective teaching, we can’t say one specific type is good or not. It needs to be compromised in harmony. It’s not time to blame our education system and teachers whose pronunciation is not good. A bad workman always blames his tools. It’s time to help the students enjoy English so that they can get the intrinsic motivation like me.