What type of teacher gives me influence?

100th WD

JISOO KIM

“The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind.”

-Kahlil Gibran-

Most students in Korea have been learning English. So, they have much knowledge and many skills. However many students can’t speak English well. Although I also have been learning English as a second language for about 15years, I am poor at speaking English too. ‘Why do we have difficulties speaking English?’ The answer is so simple. English education in Korea has been centered only reading and grammar. If so, ‘What is the most effective in learning English?’ From now on, I’m going to comparing the different types of teaching style based on my experiences.

Firstly, I’d like to talk about my high school teacher who was an “explainer” teacher. When I was 19years old, I met Mr. Jae Rock. He was sincere, but his teaching skill was not suited for me. He spent too much time explaining the meaning of words and the structure of grammar. He checked only an important part in the textbook and handed over. So, I had studied English just a necessary part. That is, I though. English is a means of the exam. I was not interested in English. Of course, I got a good score at my exam thanks to his skills. I could memorize a lot of vocabulary and understand grammar. On the other hand, I don’t completely speak and listen to English. Not only me but most students did too. Because The English average lesson in Korea has high Teacher Talk Time(TTT) and are teacher-centered classes. He often relied on ‘explaining’ or ‘lecturing’ as a way of conveying information to students. Also he didn’t check our understanding and kept going on his lesson. So we couldn’t follow his lesson if we didn’t review and preview for class. In our school years, all of us were passive students. The English to us was just one of the means which I had to go to college and write on our resume. I thought how to present an example to understand easily not explain based on the book. Only two could we feel closer to English?

Secondly, From on January in 2011 to on January in 2012, I had studied an examination for admission into a higher class. At that time, I met Mr. Jong Rock who was helpful and humorous. His teaching skill was 60% explaining, 30% presenting an example and 10% asking and answering a question. I could understand English easily due to an example and review the today’s lesson. This caused me to be interested in English. Since then, I have had a dream of becoming a teacher. If a student doesn’t understand something, his or her skills are not great, even if a teacher has great skills. All students can’t be the same. As the theory of multiple intelligences, Students can be intelligent in different ways. That is students differ from each other about knowledge and understanding difference. Therefore a teacher should present direction to fit the individual characteristics for them. I think this is a teacher’s influence. Mr. Jong Rock was “explainer” between “involver”. He could elicit thoughts from students as involver. But his lecture was still much TTT as explainer. Although he employed a different of techniques including explanation, some students asked and answer questions. Because there are about 50people in the classroom, he couldn’t ask questions to individual. This understandable neglect skill has many passive students. In this time I had a turning point in learning, but I couldn’t speak English. I don’t know how to utilize English which I learned. Most students have difficulties in speaking English with Native Americans.

This is a limit of the Korea’s education. Actually, we don’t have a choice to use English in real life.

Lastly, I met Mr. Ben who was an “enabler” in this time. I’m taking a TESOL class at Times Tesol. Totally, his teaching style differs from the others style. His lecture contains over 80% Student Talk Time(STT). Also, He always maintains eye contact. This shows attention to us. He asks questions to individuals. It makes us think. In his class, there was no perfect answer. I’m not sure whether my answer is right or not. He respects all of our answers. So, I have an important thing which I tell him something, not worry about my answer. He is an energetic teacher who always makes us enjoy his class. His class is not boring but exciting. He extends us compliments and encourages us to have confidence in speak English. Sometimes Even if I’m deficient of speaking English, I feel myself that be proud of in that he understands what I say. He gives me the pursuit for learning and causes me to be motivated.

Therefore, He makes me realize that it is important to find out each student’s learning style.

In conclusion, I think that one of the important factors to teacher loves students. That is, Teachers form strong relationships with their students and show that they care about them as people. Above all things, I want to be an English teacher who pays attention to the students’s thoughts.