**TESOL102\_Anna\_How to learn English**

The time when I was studying English in high school, it was a bit different from theses days. Qualified teachers were very few and most of English teachers wanted more vocabulary and grammar to be taught. besides, not only very poor accents and pronunciation were spoken by teachers, but also the English curriculum largely consisted of teaching to tests rather than developing vital debate and persuasion skills that are the cornerstone of communication in English. As the teaching was focused on reading and writing, I did not have opportunities to speak in English at all during the class which was perfectly fine for me to get a good score on the test. But the problem has started when I got in England for the university.

When I got in England, I couldn’t speak English at all although I got a good mark on the English test. Of course I did not expect I could have a proper conversation with native speakers but I thought I could understand what they are saying at least even though I haven’t had opportunities to use English in Korea. But I was wrong. I was having problems to talk with people so I had to go on to have basic conversational skills in English.

Before I entered university, I joined language school and started learning English in different ways which was not the same as I have been taught in Korea. There were many native English teachers who were all qualified teaching skills. Although, there were so many opportunities to use in English with people, I did not have the confidence to speak in English as I knew that my English was not enough to talk with people. So, I tried to improve my reading skill first. I bought some magazines or newspapers anything that I was interested in and started reading. I did not use a dictionary at the first time and just highlighted the word which I did not know. After finished reading I tried to find out the meaning of words using only English-English dictionary and then I read the article again. For the second time reading, I highlighted the word again which I still did not understand and found out the meaning of the words with using English dictionary again and again. I repeated it so many times until there were no highlight words and then I checked it with Korean dictionary for sure that I was right or not. Even if the article was written with my interest, I got bored easily and not helping to improve my speaking. The time went so fast, I started to have a bit more confidence than first time as I was able to communicate with people simply. Communicating in English was quite exciting so I wanted to improve my speaking skills. Speaking imitation was my second ways improving English. It was just a simple way. I started to imitate native speakers. I bought TV and DVDs as I could practice at home. When I got home, I turned on the TV and tried to watch it with subtitle on. Sometimes I just turned on the TV whether I am watching or not. For the movies (DVDs), I have tried to watch without subtitles at the first time and then watched it again with English subtitles in two times, three times.. as many times as I wanted to watch it. Sometimes I made a note some sentences from the movie and tried to use it from outside as often as I can during the whole day.

The time when I was in university, most of students were native speakers so I just listened to the things they said and read the things they wrote. I tried to imitate the same grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation so that my way of speaking was correct and natural. It was quite difficult to practice pronouncing its sounds and learn the pronunciations of words. The end of studying in England, the most difficulty was to express my thoughts in English. It was really hard for me as most of tasks went through with group works. However, it helped improve better fluency and motivated me to keep learning. I could not say that I studied English perfectly but using with these learning skills were very helpful for me to graduate from university successfully and gave me lots of confidences in English.

I decided to become an English teacher by accident just for the pure need to get a job. While I was looking for a job I had an opportunity to teach children in elementary school for 4mothes. That time I was nothing to do and needed some money so I decided to do it.

It was my decision to do it while I was really worried because I have never taught children and studied about teaching at all. I had to teach 3rd grads to 5rd grades students 20hrs a week. I was really nervous on the first day, but soon I got used to it. As time went by I felt I was enjoying so much. I loved teaching children and I wanted to teach them for the better ways that they could learn English. Based on my experience, I felt teaching was not only a matter of methodology but a perfect understanding between a teacher and a student. That is why I enrolled this course to become a qualified teacher. I knew that my English skills were not enough to teach students so I want to learn more teaching skills.

If I become an English teacher, I will try not to teach students the ways that I have been taught when I was in high school. I don’t want to be a teacher who is teaching students without knowing any methodology. Based on my experience, I will give them more communicative approach that students are expected to speak in class. Moreover I want to be a teacher who is able to bridge the gap between me and my students then the teaching process would be so easy to achieve. I want to motivate many students in learning English and trying to open the language barriers.