“Exposing your life to English”

TESOL 74th weekday

First Essay

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Actually, I don’t have much experience that I could learn English in academy.

From Middle school to High school, I had a traditional classroom as others who are similar generation. Teacher always taught by speaking and we listen to it on sitting all the time. In the college, it was same mostly except using few of visual aids and team task which is translate English contents into Korean. After college graduation, I went to academy just two times. First time learned vocabulary and second time for writing an English composition. Just one month each. Teachers are kind and they used handout. Also sometime they gave me good and bad feedback as well. The feedback encouraged me to have motive for keep studying English. But I don’t want to say that those English study time was useful because I forget all English knowledge and still I was afraid of English in speaking, listening, writing and reading before I joined the ships experience.

When I was over 30 years old, I could go to the ships called the biggest floating book fair in the world as a volunteer. Before going to the ship I should had to go to the New Zealand for English languages course for 3 month. Most of the teacher taught in modern style by using handout, communicative methods, warm-up games etc. Above all I liked that they all willingly listened my speaking though I used broken English.

I am the one who blessed a lot.

I had a great while I am on board for 2 year and 4 month. There are around 400 people from other country live together with the ship’s purpose that bringing knowledge, help and hope to the people of the world. We had to use English only for communication. And I couldn’t avoid that place for reason for ship. It meant I was exposed to English. So I could met many people who from different country, accent, pronunciation and acts from their own culture. I woke up among foreigners besides worked all the time. All guidance for ship life was formed by English. So I always had to concern English for living. Many time I felt afraid of talking with foreigners but when I start to talking them, they were of good behavior. Nobody pointed at my poor and wrong English skill. That is why I could keep having conversation with English.

I was an introvert and very shy person. My personality didn’t change till now on but I am not that much shy and afraid of English or talking with foreigners compare before because I had to be in English environment and nice friends. I think each person has their own teaching and learning style that they would prefer to and like as I like English conversation. But if I want be a good teacher, I have to find learners prefer out which learning style they would like.

If you have various experiences and meet foreigner friends in exposed environment whether you want or you don’t want, it will be great help for get rid of afraid and develop your English. And enjoy what you are going to teach.