Learn English, Learn to be a good teacher

Now a days, in Korea, English seems to be one of the priory necessities. Not only for the students, but also for the whole Korean people. It would not too much if I call it the era of English. Then, how I met English for the first time in my life?

In Korea, children start to learn English when they are very young. It is no more special thing that finding English immersing schools and kindergartens around us. But, when I was young, things are quite different. I wrote the English alphabets for the first time when I was 12, just before I got into the junior high school. And I remember that I felt proud of myself while I got a new English notebook and practiced the script.

However, It didn’t take a long time those curiosity and thrill turned into boring! Overlearning of same patterns, consistent word test made me sick of English. Most of all, my first English teacher was so strict. In every lesson, he asked the meaning of every word. If we couldn’t give the right answer, he made us to stand up at the corner during the entire class! So English changed into fear, instead of fun.

In high school, it was getting better. One day my English teacher brought a text book which was full of interesting stories. I had been liked to read books since I could recognized the letter. Therefore I read the translated part of the book that made me very easy to get through it.

When I was a university student, I had been to Europe with my friend. It was a opportunity to realize the necessity of English as a tool of communication. Right after that trip, I went to Australia to study English then I became to notice that how helpful to boost up the speaking skill in the ‘English only’ environment.

While I’m looking back on my English educational history, English was not a very academic subject or a hard task. For me, It was more like a communication tool. So that I did not ‘study’ hard. Last time in the TESOL class, I heard a student who I am study with said she memorized over 2000 vacabularies when she was in university. It was pretty shock to me, because I perceived that I have never studied that hard, also that could explain the wreck of my English.

Through out the consistent Education of English from junior high, I am sure that English is not only a tool of communication but also an academic subject in the EFL environment. As an English teacher in EFL situation, I think I should be a friendly guide for the young students, so I give them enthusiasm to get through their long journey of studying English. To achieve that, teachers must be prepared in the theory, teaching method as well. Keep their eyes on the new trend of English education, and of course they have to study consistently.

Well prepared teacher could make the good students!