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My Best Teacher

In my Junior year, I had a language training program in the Philippines for 4 month. The

reason why I decided to study there is that the Philippines is the best place to improve

English skills for beginners. Because there were One-on-One classes I could make up for

what I lack in English. I stayed in “Talac” which is located far from cities so I could

focus on only English studying.

Among my teachers, I liked a teacher whose name is Shara. She taught me English

and I attended her class called “Global Issue”. This class was a group class which Japanese,

Chinese, Korean students participated in. This class was really a success for me. Because I

got my self-esteem and confidence to speak English.

Let me tell you about her teaching style. Teacher Shara was an successful Enabler.

Before starting the class, she encouraged students to think and create ideas about topic and

gave us lots of chances to speak out. Even though students made some mistakes such as

grammar and pronunciation, she never brought shame on them. Instead,

she paid a compliment to students about what they had tried and then she corrected the

mistakes.  After the discussion, she also shared her opinion.

I still remember the day that we discussed “pronunciation”. We learned that

there would be many misunderstandings if we mispronounce some words. During the

class, one Japanese girl said “ I’d like to go bed room”. It meant that she was so sleepy so

she wanted to take a nap. But I heard “I’d like to go to bathroom”. So I said “Let’s go

together. I’d like to wash my hands”. All of the students laughed. I felt embarrassed.

However the teacher shara said, “Wow! Here is a great example about pronunciation! Thanks

to Chloe we just learned the importance of pronunciation! Do you know other words that

sound alike?” I think she was also a meditation and manager in our class.

All students liked to take her classes because she knew the way how to make

students concentrate on the class. If the lesson was boring, she made some entertainment and

jokes. It was possible to handle students because she was enthusiastic person and she inspired

enthusiasm in students. She was an effective teacher who knew how to teach students.

In addition, I think she knew the importance of rapport between teachers and students.

She was good at listening to students and she had ability to feel empathy. So students could

feel that she respected them and their opinions. She really tried students to get self-esteem

and to keep the Affective Filter Hypothesis.

For me, she was not a just teacher but a friend. After the class, I usually went to the

SARANG-BANG , which is a small bar, with her. I always waited that time because she told

me about life, happiness, human relationships, culture and so on. Those stories were

interesting to me and helped me to break my stereotypes. During the weekend, she invited me

to her home. There, we spent lots of times chatting and cooking. She was a real educator who

has authenticity.

Another reason why I chose her as an effective teacher is that she used The

Intergrated-Skill Approach which has 4 skills during the lesson. First, in the listening part, I

had to listen to an audio and take dictation. Also I listened to pop songs and watched movies

without subtitle. Second, in the reading part, she let me read many books and taught me how

to pronounce words. I’ve learned new expressions by reading books. Third, in the writing

part, she taught me writing by using traditional method. She gave me an assignment to write

an essay twice a week. She proofread it and explained grammar on the board. Fourth, in the

speaking part, I made many presentations and discussed the topics. After that she corrected

my mistakes. Through her class, I could get not only receptive skills but also productive skills.

Teacher Sara is my best and a respectable enabler teacher in my life. Thanks to her

lesson, my English level which was a false beginner increased to intermediate when I

graduated from the MMBS academy. With her effective teaching style, I could overcome fear

of speaking English and learn the importance of making relationships. We still keep in touch

together and she hopes I will be a great English teacher. In the near future, I want to be a

English teacher like her.