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The Experience of an Involver

My worst teacher was one who taught me in a Canadian High School almost 10 years ago. The teacher was the second ESL teacher I had, and even though I say he was my worst, he was not a bad person. He had a good personality and was kind, however, he never taught us formally. He didn’t seem to care about his professional work, which made the class a failure, and therefore is a good case study to apply the educational concept.

In the concept of teacher types, I would call him an involver as student had a lot of chances to speak in English through fun and interesting activities. A reason why I classify him as an involver is that he never gave us the chance to create our own ideas. He would just walk into the classroom and have fun with us, never formally explaining the educational topic or any specific learning skills or terms needed to help us learn the language.

As an ESL teacher, he gave us a lot of opportunities to practice our speaking and listening. We used both receptive and productive skills during his classes, however, according to the concept of four language skills, I would say that he missed teaching reading as a receptive skill and writing as a productive skill. The classes were not structured to follow the integrated-skill approach. He should have taught in a way which would allow us to use all four skills – reading, listening, writing, and speaking, throughout his lessons.

This is not to say I did not have many fun times in his classes. I never felt anxiety or pressure, and all of the students felt comfortable and free to express their views. Some of my other classes were kind of scary for me, but not his ESL class. He may have tried to give us the chance to acquire the language but his classes missed two important elements of Second language acquisition theory. There being, firstly we were never motivated and secondly we were never given the chance to develop our self-esteem.

As a person or individual I’ve already mentioned that he was a nice person, but not an effective teacher. I earned almost nothing academically from his classes. However, I understand the importance of creating a good working environment, and I take this experience through with me when I am managing my own class. I try to remember that a teacher should always try to maintain the balance between being a good counselor and a good academic instructor. I have to be a happy, friendly, fair and a simulating teacher after taking this course by learning all the difference educational theories. I will try my best to apply all that I learn in my own classroom.