Learning Another Language

There are various reasons why people study English. While some of them study for getting professional jobs, others learn in order to communicate. At the same time, teaching and learning English have been developed constantly, but the outcome of the students has always been a controversial issue as the purpose and the way they learn the second language depend on each person’s background and personality. I would like to discuss my own experience of second language acquisition.

The Grammar Translation Method, in which teachers were often referred as explainers or rulers of the class, helped me little with grammar and vocabulary when studying. Actually, although there is no doubt every single teaching method takes an important role when covering different skills of English, I usually try not to use the method that my teachers used. The only reason is that I want to let my students speak as much as they could. For instance, my previous teaching method focused on improving a student’s ability to use the things he learned via speaking in English. After having an experience of two years teaching teenagers ranging from elementary to high school, I feel when young students have more opportunities to speak the second language, they will not hesitate to express themselves later on. Then, communication with foreigners will be more effective and less stressful.

Even though some adults still prefer not to volunteer because many of them are timid, the Direct Method encourages a number of students to speak a lot. Both the teacher and the students are involved in the class activities. However, a teacher takes an important role here as giving feedback is necessary. The students not only benefit from written tests such as reading comprehensions, but also they can surely earn something positive from sharing their opinions with others. Additionally, they can learn how to construct their own sentences rather than just finding correct answers or filling in the blanks. Being able to do so, the students can approach to the target language fairly critically and creatively. This should lead them to the next level as they will gain a lot of confidence with the second language. In fact, some students, who did not feel confident in my class at the beginning, started to participate in a variety of class activities after a couple of months. This is probably the students nowadays are allowed to conduct many different class activities such as group exercises or games whilst I was occasionally exposed to pair works only. Through a wide range of activities in modern classrooms, students tend to understand the language they learn more efficiently. Most of all, I have found out most of the students are able to remain focused and motivated. As a result, they will enjoy their second language acquisition. I believe understanding thoroughly and enjoying fully what they study is one of the most essential parts in effective learning.

A lot of people in the countries where they are not native speakers of English often debate whether learning it as their Second language would be necessary. However, I feel how we learn is way more important than why we learn it. This is why I am on this TESOL course and I am sure that I can turn myself into an ideal teacher at the end of this course. I am looking forward to the challenges.