109 WD\_DEAN\_ESSAY, Kyeongsik Kim

It’s about me and why I am doing TESOL.

I was born in 1963 in Yeongju city, a small county. I grew there until the age of 13, and I left my town for Seoul which had better academic environment.

I had to do everything by myself; study, cooking, laundry and so on.

I wanted to study classical vocal in the university but unfortunately my parents were too poor to support my study due to my father’s bankruptcy at that time.

One day I heard the news about the National Tax College which was sponsored by government for free education. I entered it through fierce competition. After graduation, my social life began as a tax officer. As time passed, I was getting tired of numbers and the heavy work load, which let me to English world I had liked. My English was OK, I thought, so I went to Australia to work for a charity. Before going there I had an opportunity to teach the mid and high school students. I thought that I need to know thoroughly to teach them. During my study, I got to know that there had been the things my teachers had taught me by halves. Some teachers were good at teaching some difficult grammar and translation relevant to the exams for entering popular universities. Another teacher tried to teach a lot of unnecessary things to show off his knowledge. I think that most teachers neither understood English as a language nor taught it from the basics, so my English level at that time had been built from what I had had a hard self-study.

When I was in Australia, I met a lot of good people, mingled with them and started to learn native English naturally.

If I taught English, I would try to teach it as a language having its own culture in itself not as a subject. I would teach practical English as well. For example, ‘pedestrian’, ‘have(has) got’,etc. Even though they are used so frequently, I’ve never been taught.

When I taught English to the students, sometimes I was wondering if I was going in the right way, if there were no other teaching methods and how the teachers teach in overseas. That is the first reason to enroll this TESOL class. I thought that my choice was right after the first class.

The second reason is that I wish to improve my spoken English level in fluency which satisfies me with.

I am in my early fifties now, recalling my past, I realize that I was happiest when I learned. That’s why I get back to the class, which is the third reason.

Last reason is that a certificate is given by the renowned California State University Long Beach. The certificate is more than a paper to me. It is given when all the strict conditions are fulfilled. I like that.

Two and half hours travel leads me to this class every day. That’s a bit hard but excites me. I expect to be a transformer teacher.

How wonderful it would be, if I could get the certificate!

Finally, I really appreciate for Alain’s big effort for passionate teaching.