**In search of my history of learning English**

**TESOL 111**

**A-RA CHO(ALICIA)**

**March 13th, 2015**

My mother used to play a cassette tape whenever she stayed with me and my sister. One day, she put a 'new' cassette tape and turned it on. BAM! I was shocked to listen to New kids on the block's new song 'Step by step'. I've never contacted English until that time. First, I was interested in speedy style of singing, which was 'Rap' explained by my mom with her showing and getting into the groove. After solving my curiosity about rap, I wanted more about contents of the song. However, I was too young to understand English. Nevertheless, I hummed a few line of the song even though I didn't know the meaning and lyrics. After that strong first encounter with English, I expanded my interest about it through some visual media like MTV and got some knowledge about foreign culture. Well, how can I come to this so far? Let's recall and track down my experience of learning English.

Before I entered the middle school, I really enjoyed pronouncing vocabularies and reading books written in English with lots of pictures. However, my dark age began. As using Korean, my middle school English teacher just focused on explaining grammar and reading comprehension skills. They sometimes forced students to memorize all the grammatical rules and use how to choose an exactly correct answer. I think they were 100% explainer and had an authority of controlling students.

Fortunately, after I met a good English teacher in high school, my gloomy period of time faded away. Despite 54 students in my classroom, she took care of every student by noticing an individual's level of proficiency and potentials of improving English. She suggested me taking part in English speech competition. I was surprised because my English grade was so-so, thanks to former teachers who barely gave students an opportunity to speak English. I asked why you had picked me. She said that I spoke English very clearly with good pronunciation. She thought it was my strength to appeal at the speech contest. It took just 2 weeks to prepare the contest. While I wrote a script and proofread it by myself, I realized which part of grammar was my weakness and stimulated my urge to upgrade my English ability with motivation. My English grade got higher and finally earned a top score at the end of semester.

Until now, I keep learning English. However, I changed the way of learning. Owing to a kind of previous trauma of cramming education plus the matter of expense and time scheduling, I decided to be my own teacher. Luckily, I had the benefit of using multimedia to foster my English competence. Outside of the traditional classroom, I exposed myself to the stream of English naturally, for example, reading at least one chapter of a novel at night before going to sleep, watching every episode in every season of American TV program or getting used to listening to English dialogues on a daily basis. I have trouble having chance to speak out English, but that is ok with me. Constantly, I try to do the way what native speakers acquire their mother tongue even though I am an adult and my brain is getting old.

As observing other educational system and teachers, I'm concerned about what a good teacher is and keep establishing and correcting my standards of what type of teacher I have to be. By taking this TESOL program, I want to be reborn as 'Alicia version 2.0' through absorbing English according to my first pop-song 'Step by step'.