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TESOL 114th

May 23rd 2015

What is important for teacher to have in student’s learning

(800 words)

Learning experience that I had was over in New Zealand for six years. Second year elementary student in Korea, third grade in New Zealand. I only knew two words in English, Apple and Spider. But soon I could communicate in English with no difficulty just like the others in the class and further more I got to take part in school in so many ways. What I want to say is that in my opinion it was how my teachers at school taught me that had influenced me in a very good way. They were respectful, authentic and had empathy. They taught me English in my perspective starting from very easy and so on. Having EAR( Empathy;Authentic;Respect) is good and Krashen’s Hypothesis works in the classroom for teachers and also good for the students who learns from the teacher who has them because of following reasons further in my writing.

First, I learned starting with very easy words like dog and cat. This I can say is Natural Order Hypothesis which means that learners acquire language in a predictable way starting with very easy things to build up to using difficult forms. Considering that I knew only two words in English, my teacher would teach me with little children’s books reading it out loud with me and explaining it until I understand. Then when I was done with understanding that level she would move up and get me to read upper level books. Eventually I became to catch up on my grade’s reading level (though we had three different reading groups in levels). I used to read a total different book alone with the teacher but after an year I could perfectly fit in to other student’s level.

Second, learning English was subconsciously done. I would rather call it acquisition. Getting to know English was done like how I learned, how I got to know how to speak, read, write and listen in Korean. Like this, acquisition means accepting information and knowledge subconsciously through everyday communication. I didn’t start with grammar language forms but I started with easy words. My teacher would teach me and explain the meaning of the words in body language or pictures trying to give me the concept of it. Just like when you learn your first language I learned English and to start with, it was a very effective way.

Third, the class was a very modern class. It was very involving and enabling. The classes and the projects were all conducted by us except for some instructions. We would make or build anything out of the topic to show or explain about it. That way we could be very imaginative, thinking in all different ways and learn to find myself the information I need in all sorts of ways. Teacher gives us a question we find our own answers ourselves and explain why they are my answers. That made us know more information and more sure of the subject we are learning. Also gave us enthusiasm learning.

Forth, my teacher would correct my mistakes by scaffolding when I have said something wrong. Same for everyone learning a new language, it is not a weird thing when you don’t know the right expression or say something in a wrong order. Teacher would never say that it’s a wrong, but instead she would just help me correct it by building up more language on top of my words. Giving support by giving me information based on what I said helped me learn right on and eventually memorize that it is in a wrong order or it is no the expression used in that situation.

And finally the last fifth is that my teacher was authentic, had empathy and gave me respect. I was a kid from Asia and that I have said before, the only English I knew were two words, Spider and Apple. My teacher knew my level of learning and understood my situation. Taught me from the very beginning, encouraged me and would promise me that the teachers will help me through.

In conclusion learning a second language is not an easy thing to do and teaching them also is not an easy thing. For me I do think learning language forms, studying grammar is important too. But acquiring the language, letting it come in to your head subconsciously is very important too. But the most important key point was that the good teacher must understand student’s situation and should be true to the student and respect them. I must say that having empathy, being authentic and giving respect(EAR) to the student is the most important key point in teaching. That’s what my teacher made my learning experience successful and that is how I’ll be as a teacher, to my students in future teaching..