First Essay Assignment

**My experience about learning English & My future plan**

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From a very young age, I have been exposed to English speaking environment. When I was around five years old, my family had to move to Penang Malaysia because my father was recruited from one of the Japanese companies there. Malaysia is a multiracial country using Malay and English as an official language and people are surrounded with different kind of languages which was simply a part of their lives. Living with different races was really an advantage for me as it affected me greatly not to be resistant socializing with different nationalities. I was not scared communicating with foreigners even though my English was not good and I was always ready to learn new languages, and due to this reason I was not driven impetuously that I needed to learn English as quickly as I could.

There are many ways to learn a new language. In Malaysia, my first approach of learning English was going to an English kindergarten. I met my first English teacher there. At that time, I did not know a single word saying in English and when I wanted to express my feelings or desires, I spoke in Korean with body languages. She did not scold me when I was speaking in Korean, rather encouraged me to repeat after her to speak in English. Soon I was able to listen, speak, read and write in English because of her strong support and consideration. I have one episode I still remember. During the class-time, I needed an eraser and asked her for it in Korean. At first, she could not understood but referring to my action pointing at the eraser she realized and keep saying the word “ERASER” to let me repeat and know what it is called in English. I think that was her one way of teaching method for me and I was never pushed hard. She always waited for me until I was ready which I would like to really appreciate her. After I graduated that Kindergarten, I went to primary school operating in British education system and continuously learned English in various methods.

Few years later, I came back to Korea and continued learning English. Learning English in Korea was very different from Malaysia. In Malaysia, teachers interacted with students by using various teaching techniques, such as reading, singing, having role play, writing, drawings, playing games, having presentation or discussing in groups, involving students to always participate and use English during the class session.

On the contrary to this, teachers in Korea more focused on grammars, vocabularies and reading comprehensions that explanation-based teaching approach was dominating the classroom. They were transmitting knowledge to the class to prepare for paper exams only. English was my favorite class and it was a very stressful subject at the same time, because I was forced to study hard on grammars and memorizing vocabularies without enjoying learning it. Whether I spoke fluently in English was not their concern. Grammar was always important than listening, speaking or writing because their concerns to students were gaining higher marks on every exam.

Before entering to TESOL class, I did not know how important teaching methods or styles can affect learners when learning a new language. It was very interested that teachers have to consider about the types of learners and they need to prepare and adjust their teaching techniques according to learners to elicit and develop their ability to learn English effectively. The most interested part from the first module was the theory of eight distinct intelligences; verbal/linguistic, logical/mathematical, visual/spatial, musical, bodily/kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalist, explaining that individuals have at least eight distinct intelligences that can be developed over a lifetime created and developed by Howard Gardner who is a psychologist. I think it will be a useful theory I could apply for my classes in the future.

I just finished my first module in TESOL class and I am extremely excited to learn more to acquire becoming an effective teacher to speakers of other languages. Although teaching is difficult, I would like to become an enabler teacher who could control, manage and monitor the class by fully utilizing those methods of teaching I am going to learn to assist my students to be always ready and confident learning English.

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