Essay #1

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My Motives for Taking Children’s TESOL

These days, it is no need to say that English is a global language and we need to be fluent in it in order to survive in this competitive global village. However, it is never easy to become fluent in one language without actually using it every minute. That’s why so many Korean kids leave their parents and study abroad, which costs a lot of fortune, but more importantly, those days that they could have spent with their families. In the mean time, for those who choose to stay here in Korea, English is usually the hardest subject that tortures them even after college. The biggest problem is that most teachers and parents still think that memorizing grammar and vocabularies is the basic of learning English. Students learn and memorize grammar and vocabularies like formulae in math or science. Then, they apply them to reading, listening, writing, and speaking. As far as I’m concerned, this is a total nonsense. The best way to learn English is to use it as much as possible. Try watching shows, reading books, writing letters, speaking with friends all in English! Then we never need to memorize grammar or vocabularies. Isn’t this how we learn Korean? I have no idea why people don’t try to learn a foreign language as they do their mother tongue. If there is one thing I know, it’s that our conventional method of teaching and learning English has not helped us at all. Most Koreans can barely communicate in English even after about fifteen years of learning English not only in public but also in private institutes.

I want to help Koreans learn English as if they are living abroad and picking it up as their first language. Even if I’m teaching a grown-up who knows a hell of grammar, their communicative ability might be quite disappointing. Besides, I want my students to naturally acquire English in their everyday lives with fun rather than study it as a subject. Actually, this is how I learned English. Although I have never been abroad, I met a great teacher, Mr. Kay. He had this strong belief that no one can beat the one who enjoys. He recommended me to expose myself to English as much as possible. Of course, I couldn’t read a boring grammar book all day long. Instead, I read tabloid magazines and juicy novels, watched dramas and movies, and hung around with foreign friends. These things were so fun that I could do them 24/7. Whenever I am free, I watch American dramas for fun, and learn many useful expressions. Many Koreans say that they can’t try this way because they are too busy. They need to improve their score in English tests as quickly as possible. However, I believe that this is also the most efficient method. They can improve their proficiency, not just scores, faster than by any other means.

However, I know nothing about teaching. I want to learn how native speakers teach their first language. By taking this course of TC, I expect to learn how to assist children to acquire English as their language. Hopefully, I could use the skills to help students of all age groups to learn English more easily and with more fun.