**Somebody Who Makes Her Own Position, With The Sense Of Endless Challenge**

**Times TESOL WD 118 Anna (Su Ah, Han)**

I first began to consider teaching English when I was Junior in the High School. I had enrolled a ‘English Language’ subject when I grew to feel my English was poor before entering Bugae Girls High School, and most of the teachers were fantastic. One, in particular, stood out: She was a high-energetic speaker of English. She was well-versed in the teaching material while engaging the class in a way I had never seen before. She taught English very well. She was my role model in dreams. It was then that I began to seriously think about teaching English as a Second Language as a profession.

When I came to University and majored in International Relations at Sunmoon University, the Politics in English and English Reading and English Presentation courses helped me a lot in understanding my early language learning experiences. Inspired by the strong inner call of self-exploration and the will to help my friends, I started to take relevant courses about language learning theories and linguistics, including Phonetics, Linguistics. Thanks to University Professors’ efforts, I have come to realize that teaching is not only the delivery of knowledge, but also the effort to share with, to affect, or to help people.

Our world is changing, quickly. As advancements in technology spur on globalization, communication between cultures is becoming increasingly more and more important. Language is the foundation of that communication; both to understand and be understood in more than one language is essential to fostering understanding in the emerging international community. I firmly believe that the path to making the world a better place is through individuals. If we are not working towards intercultural acceptance on a personal level, then striving for such understanding on a global level will do no good. Since language is merely a reflection of culture, and often a language class is the first exposure students have to that culture, the teacher’s role is a crucial one in developing cultural understanding.

I have browsed through TESOL website and noticed that TIMES TESOL program has a strong focus on intercultural communication and on the interaction of social behavior and language use. I have always had great interest in learning new languages and cultures. Besides English and my mother tongue, Korean, I’ve studied English culture for two years. I also noticed that several professors of TESOL program master in bilingual language acquisition and teaching. I want my experiences in learning English may help me move further along this line of research.

I think that Teaching is an art and several factors should be take into consideration, including the students’ state of mind, classroom atmosphere, the teachers’ attitude, the teaching approaches, evaluation methods, cultural factors, and so on. While teaching English to speakers of other languages, cultural factors and student attitudes towards a new culture should be first taken into consideration. Besides, course planning should be adjusted or innovated in order to make courses more accessible to non-English students. In South Korea, English language learning has become more and more important for the trend of internationalization. However, because of some inappropriate teaching approaches, students may learn English in an ineffective way or even encounter obstacles in learning English.

So now, I am here for studying TESOL to be a Great English Teacher. I look forward to such more smiles in my future.