Kim Namsil (Rachel)

July 25, 2015

My Best Teacher

 My best teacher I have ever met is the French teacher. She taught almost 50 students in a class

French as the second foreign language when I was a high school student in Seoul. As it is more than

15 years ago, I cannot remember her name exactly; however, I can recall that she was a good-looking

teacher in late 20’s with very elegant voice, and authentic manner. I am certain that the class was a

great success due to those three reasons; her visual and auditory materials which were the most

effective modes to me, a variety of activities to enjoy learning the target language like a play and her

integrated-skill approach.

In terms of her teaching style, she was definitely an enabler as she interacted with students a lot

during the class. Her class started always with quickly recalling and answering her questions about

the last lesson for 5 minutes. When there was new vocabulary, she made students to guess

the meaning asking five questions to her rather than just gave the meaning directly. She taught

several French songs including Jordy’s ‘Dur Dur De’etre Bebe’ which was sensationally popular in that

time. I could not only enjoy singing songs as a fun activity but also improve all four basic language

skills in balance which are listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The reason why I still remember her class and think her as an effective teacher even more than

15 years later is that she used a various techniques such as visual and auditory materials, fun

activities, live demonstration, role play and Q&A etc. I had never felt anxiety in learning French as the

second foreign language but actively participated in her class. The other reason is that those wide

ranges of techniques helped extend my concentration and retention. When there were school exams,

I usually had to study several hours or spend a whole night; however, for French exams, just an hour

was enough to review what I learned before exams. Even when I simply recalled activities or

demonstrations that I did in the class, automatically relevant grammars or dialogues came up in my

mind. I had a lot of fun in the class and great scores in exams as well.

Considering how I learned so much, I think she seemed to understand the integrated-skill

approach very much and apply it in balance. The class always consisted of four basic skills. It started

with speaking vocabulary and sentences from the last lesson as a warm-up. And students listened a

dialogue through audio two or three times to guess what they would learn. When the guessing was done, reading and writing line by line were started. Those four skills were repeatedly taught in the

class.

In conclusion, she is such a great effective teacher I have ever met. Although I do not speak or

write French except very simple words now as I have had no opportunity to practice since high school,

I still feel confident and familiar when I hear it somewhere. Moreover it makes me to think that I would

Learn the language again someday. If I have a chance to teach a foreign language, I will be willing to

use her various techniques and the integrated-skill approach, and apply it to the class in my own ways

to be an effective teacher like her.