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**My Best Teacher**

My best teacher was an English teacher. Her name was Choi Su Jung. She was my middle school teacher while I was in Korea. This story happened quiet long ago- about 24 years in the past. When I look back at my childhood, I was a quiet, shy girl that nobody seemed to know who I was. Nothing special, nothing great was within me. I was just a normal student, but because of my English teacher my school life totally changed. She taught me for 1 year but I can not forget the experience that I had learned. Her lesson principle was really successful for me.

I didn’t get attention from teachers or classmates. I was a passive student, because I didn’t have any dream or know something I wanted to do. So it was a miserable time when I went to school, but she was a very kind, warm and very organized person. She answered very kindly to the students’ question. She was very clear when she explained a topic and allowed us to do some assignments. So I liked her very much and if she gave me some homework or something to do, I could participate well. If she asked some questions in English, I answered very well and she complimented me a lot in front of the class so other classmates started treating me as a special student even though I wasn’t. They said, “Wow, Junghee, you speak English very well, and you speak like an American. “ Because my classmates and my English teacher told me this, I started to like English more and more. So she seemed to understand the affective filter hypothesis.

One day, she gave us a summer vacation assignment. We had to interview and record our conversation with at least 4 foreigners in English asking more than 10 questions, but we lived in the countryside so we had never met any foreigners before. She recommended us to go to Seoul and visit the Gyeongbokgung palace. She made us in to groups so we organized the field trip together. There were 5 members in our group, but each person had to take the interview with his/her own voice. My teacher gave only directions and we had to figure it out with our own effort. She seemed to use S-centered method well. She allowed us to use a recorder in order to record our own voice, even though other teachers didn’t use it much at the time. She seemed to use modern teaching techniques well.

We went to Gyeongbokgung Palace together to do the assignment. But after we got to the palace, we were so nervous and embarrassed. We didn’t know how to start. One of my friends said that she could not do this. She was very embarrassed when she saw some foreigners standing nearby because they looked very different to Koreans. So one friend and I approached one foreigner first with boldness if he could interview him. He was a 42-year-old man. He kindly welcomed us. He said that he was travelling for a few weeks and he answered well to the questions that I prepared. After I succeeded in this conversation with him, I became so confident. So we encouraged my other friends to do the interview as well. It was an exciting experience and I really enjoyed it very much. We managed it and accomplished in finishing it. So we complimented each other after finishing the assignment. The most interesting thing was that I was not only able to ask the 10 questions but also other questions in English much more. I was so curious about him/her and it was really exciting to hear their story even though I could not understand all of it. I liked communicating with them. After finishing the interview, my group members and I started to like English much more and we were complimented by our teacher. She was a quiet but great enabler. She seemed to understand very well how to enable students to speak and use English well.

While taking this TESOL program during the methodology section, I realized a lot that my teacher was quite a great person. She seemed to understand very well how to enable students to apply and speak English. So I would like to be a teacher like my best teacher. I am so honored that I met the best teacher like her during my school career. I am so happy that I was able to be reminded of this story. Thank you so much for reading my essay!