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My Best Teacher

The teacher who gives me the best memory was a class teacher in my high school. His name is Lee-Won, Kim. He was my English teacher. The students always could talk and have questions to him. Even teacher did not say “Do you have a question?”. So we felt free to learning English. Many students loved him because he is very friendly and respectful of all students. Sometimes he had very strict attitude toward things that we did wrong. But it did not matter to students at all. Because we all knew that his discipline was based on love. So the students trusted him all the time. If we got in trouble or were confused about our future, we wanted to talk with him. This helped the students concentrate in the class as well. I graduated from girls’ high school. As you know, girls are very sensitive. So it is very important to build emotional relationship.

I think he was an enabler. He allowed me to read paragraphs in textbooks in front of class and share my ideas in the class. And we discussed our thoughts about various subjects as a team. Now that I think of it, he was an only enabler in my school.

Mr. Kim was totally student-centered. He was like a manager. Although we sometimes listened to what he explained regarding grammar, Most of the time we had to talk and share our ideas. Also he always respect to students’ ideas. Students could get self-confidence and self-esteem in Mr. Kim’s class for presenting or sharing our ideas even though we could not speak English well. It was very different atmosphere to other classes.

Mr. Kim understood the affective filter hypothesis. After we discussed about a certain subject, the captain in each team presented what we discussed in front of the whole class. The teacher did not point out anything wrong about captain’s speech. And he always said “You did a very good job” then explained to the class what were grate about each team’s discussion. And before finishing the class, we had to write about what we learned in that class. For example, we wrote about “what was impressive about other teams’ idea?” or “can you summarize what your team discussed today?”. Then in next class, we got the papers that we wrote. There were comments from Mr. Kim about correct expressions and grammar as well as personal teaching like “I know you are doing your best”

I believe that it is ideal to teach according to the Input hypothesis and affective filter hypothesis. I need to prepare input that is comprehensible and slightly beyond the student’s level according to the Input hypothesis. And I need to use visual aids and positive feedback. These are very important things. Considering these, I will try to understand not only the student’s level but also his or her personality. This is related to the affective filter hypothesis. To use the method, I can refer to Mr. Kim’s teaching type. I believe it is most important things of teaching that the teacher can build to emotional relationship with students and also have to manage the class.