Gangnam Tesol 123rd wk

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**My Best Teacher**

 My best teacher was Andy C.(Chiyin) Lu. He was an ABC that is America-born Chinese and was born in Washington DC. He taught me English at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies for twenty weeks in 2006. He mainly taught about listening skills. His class was one of the most successful classes among the subjects of the twenty weeks’ intensive English courses. He primarily used video clips such as “Seinfeld” the TV sitcom and “60 minutes” the news documentary, which brought a lot of fun and useful information about American culture as well as the world’s ongoing critical problems. To help students figure out the meanings of the words from videos along listening and dictating, he presented expressive gestures with pantomimes and many anecdotes from his own experiences, which spiced up the class’s studying atmosphere. Also he tried to motivate students to study more by the means that he set the range of each test per class as the whole lot we had hitherto learned. It is of no doubt that my listening ability got improved beyond the limit that I would previously set unconsciously thanks to him.

 Mr. Lu was an enabler, because he did not just explain the meaning of a new word in advance, rather he made students deduce to guess the meaning of the new word and figure it out. When the word that every student does not know comes out, he firstly showed actions to describe the word. He had a very expressive look which can show abundance of emotion that often led students to crack up ineffably. He also used the method that he split the word into the prefix, root and suffix, and explain each part of the word. Then he had students conjecture the meaning of the word. He also helped students enable to find the suitable word while we were filling in the blanks along dictating by making us consider the context and the situation of what was happening in that particular scene on the show we had watched.

Mr. Lu was an effective teacher when he cared each student’s well-being and study progress. At that time I was being taught by him, I was very shy so I was not willing to speak in the class. He endeavored to encourage me to speak and answer for his questions with compliments rendered from the bottom of his empathetic heart. That reduced my anxiety of erring to say a wrong answer in the class. He often came and sat beside me and started to talk to me when I was sitting alone on a bench during the rest time. Also he was frank that he expressed his feeling without shame, which made us regard him as one of our friends.

Considering how I learned so much from him, I think Mr. Lu seemed to understand the characteristics of retention rates. He taught students regarding tips for listening and memorizing words easily, which was very helpful for my studying. Though we did not go outside from the class and directly experience real activities, he derived students to use their own stories as well as his own ones to explain concepts of new words. He frequently used live demonstration with his body to describe unfamiliar concepts and words. Lastly, the audio/visual aids he applied were truly useful for students to get introduced of news of world and American culture as if those of neighborhoods. I believe in terms of listening skills the students level heightened from the upper intermediate to the advanced thanks to him.

Mr. Lu enabled students to understand the meanings of English words by themselves. He taught his students by not just lecturing knowledge but by teaching effectively with empathy, authenticity and respect. Further he seemed to have understood of the retention rate such as teaching/mentoring, experiential learning, live demonstration and using audio/visual aids. I think Mr. Lu showed one of epitomes as a good teacher. I would like to teach students as he did since the way he taught me improved my English proficiency and elevated self-esteem as well as motivation to reach a higher level.