1st essay, Second Language Acquisition Assignment

My personal experience of English learning

“About one caring adult”

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With globalization, English is getting important increasingly. A number of people have been spending a lot of time to study English. The first time that I started to study English was when I was in the middle school. However, I have not been using English after graduating school since I do not have to use English in my job. Then, I started to learn English as a hobby in New York. I want to share about my experience of learning English for my New York life.

To begin with, I would like to tell about a teacher who has many activities in her classroom. I do not remember her name, but she works at “Rennert”, which is private school of English at Manhattan. She was a kind of involver. There were fun activities and the students enjoyed them. The students had role-playing and watched video such as TV show, drama, and movie. They often went for an outing to the museum. I can say it was “learner-centered education”. Learner-centered education makes the students motivate. In contrast, teacher-centered education can make the students bored. Especially, teachers who teach second language should think about students’ level and interest.

In addition to, it is important to listen to the students. I had two tutors in New York. One of tutors was a talker. She was a good teacher, but she was not listener. I was not good at speaking in English and I had to practice to speak English. I believe that second language teacher should inspire students with compliment and elicit to speak English. On the other hand, another tutor whose name was Mi-kyung An was a good listener and gave me confidence. She waited for my answer when I spoke in English, and she tried to solve my English problem. Thank to her, I could improve my English skill than before.

Lastly, communicating is one of teaching skills. As I said earlier, Mi-kyung An was a good teacher. She was strong at grammar and good explainer. Not only did she listen to her students, but she also communicated clearly. She was a best friend to her students. I believe that communicating skills is the best teaching skills above all.

In conclusion, I know the power of one caring adult. Prof. Josephine Kim from Harvard University, author of “Self-esteem in the classroom”, said that if there is one caring adult, children can change. The teachers should really care about their students, and give them love. A good teacher can make a good student. Also, I want to be a good teacher who remains in student’s memory.