127th WK Essay 1 \_ Isabel (Yeseul Kim)

**My teachers who gave me a special present.**

When I was a child, my father always made me study English for my future. He didn’t want me to fail any of examinations in English. So, I had to study it harder than others. I couldn’t complain to him that I didn’t want to do and I didn’t like to do. Because of that, I had never felt interested in English before I went to high school. There were two teachers that made me change and had different thinking in English. They gave me another view in learning English.

In sophomore year, I met my first teacher who gave me the special gift. She was a strict but humorous person. To this day, I think the way she punished quite physically severe but funny. If one of the students dozed off during her class or did anything bad, she made the student hang from the classroom door for a few minutes. It helped the students to focus more on her class, because they didn’t want to do. In Korea, most of the teachers, working for high school that have more than 30 students in one large classroom as a traditional classroom, prefer teaching by explaining to teaching by doing other active methods. She was also the teacher who took charge of English in high school. In contrast with her punishment style, her lecture put me under a lot of stress, because she was an explainer in teaching something. In other words, she loved writing the contents that we studied on a board and telling the students what they are. And she didn’t ask the students any questions and make them answer. The students had to write down what she explained on their own note to submit for homework later. For this reason, it was hard to follow her lecture and it sometimes made me get bored. However, I enjoyed her lesson and it caused me to have an interest in English for the first time. When she explained something, she used many brief example sentences or words. And they made me understand better than before and think English wasn’t difficult any more. Through her lesson, I no longer had any problem and dissatisfaction in learning English. She motivated me to study and be interested in English.

I had more pleasure in learning English by her teaching, but it was still hard for me to speak or use practical English. So, I decided to study abroad for learning English. During this time I met my second teacher. He was an old man who worked for a language academy as a teacher. In those days, he was looking for an assistant who could take of his class. He suggested me to take the position and I accepted that with one condition which was for him to become my private teacher for teaching English. At our first class, I regretted my decision, because he was an active person as opposed to me. However, he was the one who changed me completely. I think he was not only an involver but also an enabler. We, most of the time, had a class outside. And a park was our favorite place to study. During his class, he liked asking me the meaning of words. I could guess the meaning with given pictures or objects. Sometimes he used several relevant keywords or gestures related to the answers. In addition, if I had incorrect answers, he made me find the words from a dictionary and write a diary using the words. And when I said anything with wrong pronunciation or grammar, he made me repeat of the correct sentences that he pronounced. Because of his class, I realized that active teacher like him can make students have more positive attitude in learning.

Preparing for this essay, I flashed back to my best teachers. And I felt that I was very lucky for having a chance to meet them. Because they let me learn teaching skills in English naturally as well as have another view and attitude in learning English. They showed me how to lead the class well as an explainer, an involver and an enabler. By modeling myself on my teachers, I’m trying to teach English more pleasantly with many sources that make my students can participate. And also if there is something needed to explain, I’m trying to use many examples which make my students become attracted in English. I still don’t have enough skills and knowledges for teaching, but I hope to develop my abilities from this TESOL program. And I’m looking forward to being a great teacher who can remain in my students’ mind like them.