***My dream as a Teacher of English Learners***

KN-130th WD

‘A teacher’s story’ made my eyes teary at the last part of it- “I didn’t know how to teach until I met you.” I got great impression from the middle part of it even though I am not a teacher now; ‘she quit teaching skills. Instead, she began to teach children.’ So I started to consider meaning what ‘teaching someone’ is and not ‘teaching skills or technique.’ I tried to reflect on my faith and then memorable English teachers for considering my dream as an English Teacher.

**First, I am the one of them who believes that education or mentoring make people change.** Many people do not think that people cannot be changed easily. People who I had met while I worked think like that. I agree on it. But in my opinion, people may be able to be changed if they have kinds of momentum. And I got to remind again that ‘rapport’ is very important while I read the teacher story and the TESOL textbook, too. Actually I already learned that developing rapport is very important between every teacher and students in psychology class. Authenticity is also very important among the EAR; empathy, authenticity and respect. I agree with that rapport between teacher and students may be founded easily based on teacher’s authenticity. That is the reason why I believe people can change. I thought that both were reason why I also got a huge impression, and then I had tears in my eyes.

**Second, people cannot internalize second language if they do not have good habits to be with that everyday even though they learn several skills and techniques from their best teachers.** I recalled my English teachers who have had a good influence on me, and then think over my English competency for many years.

I met a female English teacher in middle school, she taught me confidence while she let me memorize and I was trying to memorize many sentences. As far as I remembered, she applied several methodologies to her English class; using ‘audio-lingual’ method, ‘direct’ method as well as ‘grammar-translation’ method which commonly used in class at those times. And she let us speak out or write whole paragraph we had learned every time closing unit. In order to memorize, I read my every textbooks out in my room and read them over and over. Due to her advice, I used to memorize every my textbook until high school; therefore my English scores in school were always high. She let me have a good habit to be familiar with English. I think she was a good involver and enabler.

I met a grammar teacher at English academy from middle school to high school; he also taught me confidence in reading various types of English article and studying English steadily. Even though the teaching method was grammar-translation method, it could be a momentum for me to conceptualize grammar well and to upgrade reading skills. Maybe it seemed that I knew well English spelling in my whole life at that time.

Third teacher also taught me confidence in listening as beginning student. He recommended the students to try to use English and to love English everyday as like your love. When I was in university I wanted to study more advanced English. So I took the listening class –like practicing listening to CNN. But it was not easy for me. In order to take good score in TOEIC and TOEFL test, I really needed to listening skill so I took a famous listening class in ‘Sinchon’ with my friends. At that time, I was trying to pronounce exactly with following the tape. Due to practicing every day, I could understand various common prolonged sounds and could get to hear English naturally.

Even though I got lessons from three impressive teachers, I thought that ’Now, I got to know how to study English by listening, speaking and so when I feel to need English, I could make it.’ I got above myself and then I made light of developing my English when I felt busy. Then one day I realized again that English ability get more opportunity for me at company. So I had been to abroad for learning English and traveling for a several months. I could speak English naturally in a measure. I just had tried to let me speak in English while set the conditions I had to do. But I missed out again English in my hands after having been to abroad. My English competency has been jumping up and down even though I thought that I really liked to learn Englishat least when I was in school; especially middle and high school. It is very strange things.

But now come to think about it again, it seemed that I did not love English eagerly and did not live with English every day, so I just used to stop learning English as well as communicating in English when I had some excuses during my life. Now I need to spend a lot of time again for getting back to my previous English competency because I did not communicate English every single day after I had been to abroad for a while. At this point, I could remind that my TESOL teacher emphasized that people communicate to learn English; people need to learn English by communication. My experience also tells that people cannot make their second language to their own things if they do not live with that and do not communicate that.

**To synthesize above my faith and lesson, I make up my mind that I would emphasize essential habits for communicating and thinking in English rather than techniques and skills to my future English learners.** I would let them know they need to be exposed at environments that make them communicate in English continuously as like people can take their own bicycles naturally after learning how to ride the bicycle.

People usually need to talk about themselves and their lives in English frequently in the initial stage for learning English, so repeated practice on speaking and writing frequently their own stories makes them confident. And then it makes them more confident to practice for speaking out their faith and thought on specific subjects. For this, at first I would hear their stories with my authenticity while building rapport between us. After building rapport, I would encourage them to have a good habit to learn English by themselves. I would try to help them to speak and write their lives and thought and then let them speak out their own stories repeatedly. I believe they would finally have the confidence when they get to talk their own stories comfortably in English. And that would draws them motivation to communicate in English more of their own free will.

I still have to keep my existing job for a while and need to prepare more in order to be natural in English, but I will be a teacher who makes students think and communicate in English and contributes to changing their lives 10 years later.