K131N-WE Hayeon Jang (Ella)

“My Dream as a Teacher of English Learners”

To gain confidence as an English teacher is my first goal of taking this California State University at Long Beach Times Media TESOL Center TESOL class. To know English and to teach English are distinctly different. As I think confidence is one of the most important things for learning English, English teachers must be confident in front of students to help them emulate a good example of English speaker who is not a native speaker. An another thing to gain by TESOL is technical information for teaching English, I want to know how to teach English, organize classes and manage students more effectively.

I would like to share my story about a teacher who is one of the best teachers in my life. When I was in the 3rd grade of elementary school, I met the first good teacher. I was a highly intelligent child but quiet and shy so never raised my hand and talk about my opinion or announced the answer in a class. However she encouraged me to raise my hand and announce. She just said very kindly “Maybe, Hayeon knows the answer. Would you like to raise your hand and tell us?”. It was the very first time to announce something in a class in front of many classmates and it was the beginning of my confidence. She gave me belief in me and I started to try to be confident by myself, I had become an active student little by little. Not only do I appreciate to her but also she is still unforgettable teacher in my life.

I hope I become a good English teacher who encourage students have confidence in English, further any studying just like her. Additionally, communication skill is needed to encourage students. Talking with students interactively helps them feel comfortable in a class. To talk interactively listening well what students tell is very important. Especially when listening students and communicating with them, understanding their mind is more important. At this point, teachers need to be brought down to the student’s level. Therefore I will communicate well with students then make them feel comfortable and enjoyable.

Back to my story, when I was a student, I was not good at English. I learnt vocabulary, grammar, and so on. But it was too difficult to apply vocabulary and grammar to reading books and speaking. By the way I went to Canada when I was 23, the environment was totally different. I did not have to memorize words, reading dialog, of course I studied English grammar that I did not know well. But I just enjoyed talking with friends and teachers with any topic even small talk. My English was getting better and I had confidence in speaking English. I was not worried anymore when I read English book or any document. And I realized English is not study, it is culture. The best way to learn English is learning culture.

But Koreans are living in Korea. Unless they go abroad to learn English, it is very hard to change the environment which is the best environment to learn English. Making the environment similarly is English teacher’s share of work. Without speaking Korean, even body language is acceptable, only English zone must be effective. Helping student have many chances to speak English is also teacher’s work. So I would share my opinion about learning English that English is not study, English is just language, means of communication and culture so I would like to say to my future students “English is culture. Enjoy the culture in your ways, there are no competition and no comparison”.

After I take TESOL class I believe that I become better English teacher. Like I mentioned during this essay, the teacher who encourages students, has good communication skill, and makes students enjoy English is the person I would like to be and I will be.