*‘****My Life As A TESOL Certified English Communication Facilitator’***

***131 wk 김동현(Terry)***

***Before I took this course, I had dropped the same one in a few months ago because of work. Even though I am living in Deajeon, which is 2 hours away from the TESOL center in Gangnam, Seoul, I was so eager to take this course so I put aside my work for two months and registered for it again. I am working an English teacher but I wanted to know more about teaching skills and making lesson plans. The ways Korean teachers teach are totally different from the ones American teachers do but I wanted to improve myself and learn the way they teach. I teach English in Korean but in this course, I heard that there would be a few chances to teach every lecture in English, I thought it would be a new challenge for me.***

***While I took this course, I had a hard time understanding the materials at first. Everything was new for me. New terminologies, different learning settings, and lack of time to prepare the assignments during weekdays gave me a hard time. But with the help of the instructor and the students, I started to follow through the assignments. The instructor made a chatting room on the phone so everyone could share their ideas and solve any problems that other students had. The students got so closer and made good friendship so it was getting much easier to get through the hard time together. The class that everyone thought would be difficult was getting more fun and easier. Even though everyone had a work to do during weekdays, everyone made efforts in the course. We learned various fun activities such as ice breakers, making wall chart, and so on. Through a lot of group activities, students learned cooperation, dividing roles, brainstorming and making presentations. The beauty of this course was definitely Micro-Teaching. We learned different types of segments for making a lesson plan. We learned how to assemble them to make an effective and enjoyable lesson plan. Step by step, from pre-activity to post activity, I have mostly covered them and made several lesson plans. The first one that I made was horrible. I made a lot of mistakes and did not follow the procedures so I got so many comments and feedback from the instructor. As a result, my lesson plan and my lecture was getting better. I was so frustrated that I could not prepare well. I was sorry for not giving a good lesson to the others because of lack of preparation but as I got used to the course, I put more efforts in this course. At the final lesson, I was a bit satisfied with the lesson plan and lesson because my instructor and the students said that I was getting better. I was getting more confidence to teach English in English. In addition, I had so many chances to speak English. The classroom was the English zone where we had to speak only English which gave the students the perfect environment to improve their speaking skills. By speaking English all the time, giving positive feedbacks to each other and being encouraged to participate in every activity by the instructor, we all have been improved when it comes to learning English.***

***After this course, I will try to put everything I have learned though this course into my lesson, starting with the lessons for middle school students. There is no conversation class in the studying room I run. I teach students English mostly for exams. I, however, feel that I need some changes as for teaching English. Koreans students have no choice but to study for exams to go to a well-known school so that they get a job they want. I cannot ignore it but I will come up with an idea of how to put the American education system into the Korean one so that students meet the both demands, which are getting a good grade on exams and actually being a good English speaker. We all know that language is a tool of communication but we are using English as a tool of getting a good grade or getting a better advantage over others who are not good at English. As an English teacher, I am a bit shameful that my speaking skills will getting poorer because I have no chance to speak in or outside of class. My plan for this year is to make an environment where we can only speak English with the students I teach and the people who are interested in learning and speaking English. With the knowledge of what I have learned through this course, I will study more about the lesson plans and make as many lesson plans as possible so that I will teach with different styles and activities. If I teach in only one way, It could be boring. While I am taking this course, I have searched various lessons plans that I can use in my class. There are so many good teachers and ways to teach English effectively and fun. I will be in a community where English teachers share their ideas.***

***Thanks to this course, I have learned not only English but made a lot of good friends and met a good instructor. There are too many people who want to be good at English but are struggling to learn it and finally give it up. I want to be an English teacher who teaches students English well and gives encouragement to the learners who are not good at English. Beyond it, I will run an English Academy like* California State University at Long Beach Kangnam TESOL Center. I would like to thank the instructor and the students that I have spent so much time together for 2 months. I recommend a lot of people who want to be an English teacher as well as the people who want to improve their English and communication and presentation skills taking this course.**