***<Essay assignment>***

My successful English classroom experience in my middle schooldays

Class: 135th WK

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When I was 6th grade’s elementary school student, my father registered me in a private English conversation academy for usually adult learners because he wanted me to be very fluent English speaker. I think it was the most thankful and life changing experience in my whole life.

At that English conversation academy, though I had a very little knowledge and could not speak a lot, I joined the native teacher’s class after finishing Korean teacher’s English class for 2 months. And it was very good chance to get familiar with English based on the input hypothesis by Stephen Krashen who is famous about 2nd language acquisition in the world. And it was really exciting and interesting for me to meet a real native speaker who could use only English. So, I just tried to hear and speak as much as I can. And I think it was acquisition method to learn the language based on the acquisition vs learning hypothesis. Compared to other people who only learn English in Korean public school class which only conveys the knowledge (Jug & Mug) and focuses on learning the language, not acquiring language unconsciously, I was in very good environment where I can learn English subconsciously very well. And the atmosphere of my class was very exciting and fun and I think is a typical example of the affective filter hypothesis. With this fun & relaxed atmosphere, I could ask and say anything that I wanted to speak. And the teacher responded me very well and he liked my active participation very well. Even, he called me ‘my daughter’ as my nick name (Because I was the youngest in that class). And I was very good to be called and I think he had a great authenticity for the students, one of the 3 characters which a good teacher can have. I still remember the time that he bought me a Tteok-bokki in a street after I found him on my way to institute. And he said “Try this, my daughter, before the class” while he stroked my head. It was the first time to eat that street food with a teacher in my life. And I thought he is just like friends to me, not a strict teacher.

Based on that kind of rapport, because I want to talk with him a lot, I tried to speak and listen as much as I can with him. Regardless it is grammatically wrong or not, I tried to make the sentence and say the words to him. And I think it means that I learned English using the productive skill rather than receptive skill.

But when I went to the middle school in Korea, the English class in my school was very different from that I had in the private English academy. It was focused on the Grammar by each chapter. And the teacher was busy to let us known about each grammar items like past tense, present perfect, passive & active sentence, the components of English sentence etc. (It was mostly deductive way to teach English). And we had to write down and memorize what the teacher taught for the test. Therefore we easily lost our interest about speaking English and I just did not know why I should learn this grammar formula unlike the English class that I previously experienced. And now I know the language learning should be done by inductive learning which shows the students many examples for that grammar or words until they can figure it out inductively. And the teacher in my public school can be categorized as an explainer teacher which stands for traditional class’ teacher. To become a good teacher, I would like to teach English to my students using inductive learning method. I will train them not to learn a language deductively event it seems time efficient and easy to memorize. Because, the inductive learning is the best and right way to improve their English using the language acquisition function in our body. And I also would like to be an enabler, an involver and an explainer depending on my type of classes and situation.

I feel like I will be a good English teacher after I finish this TESOL class which emphasize the more modern class, unconscious way to learn a 2nd language and active participation of the students in class etc.

Thank you for reading.

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