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

134WDKN Essay Sonya Kim

“Who’s number 23? Stand up and read the text aloud.” This was the only time I could speak out any English during English class back when I was a teenager. Listening to nothing but the teacher's stuttering and awkward pronunciation. Of course, English class ended up being one of the most boring classes during my entire school life. But I remember when learning English was very fun. When English was not learned as a foreign language with full of memorizing vocabulary and difficult rules of grammar, when I was able to listen, read, write and speak up English whenever I liked to, without worrying about making some mistakes or achieving some scores, and when I was called ‘Sunshine Sunny’, not by a number.

 The depth of English I learned during 10 years of my whole teenage life, was less than when I was 3 years old, living in Hong Kong. By elementary school, I was already able to read the alphabet, count numbers, and match the words with pictures. I ignored the teachers lesson, but I could get the highest score. I could never understand why my classmates couldn’t get the words right. “This is right, because it is!”

To learn English as a non-English speaker, it is inevitable to face the limit to learn the culture of the language. Then it is the teachers’ role to lead the students to understand the difference. And many teachers decide to teach in the most efficient yet not effective way, forcing them to memorize. Although some people criticize that teaching English by letting the students memorizing rules of grammar and vocabulary is not a good way to learn a language, memorizing without questioning is an easy and quick way to learn English. Especially, in a country where English is not spoken in daily life, it would take ages to learn English by letting them to understand the whole culture of it just by having an English lesson a couple of hours per week.

Realizing this fact, and unable to feel the empathy of students’ difficulty learning second hand language, I decided not to become an English teacher, who would torture the students by hammering words on their brains and end up being one of boring teacher in one’s memory. Like I did. However, by having a few students for private tutor. I started to believe that it is possible to become an English teacher who entertains students.

If I become an English teacher, I would teach students English not as a literature, but as expressions. The main reason students learning English as a second language end up hating it is because they had no opportunity to learn it in practical way. I cannot remember how I started learning English, but I remember when I started to get interested. It was when I first listen to Avril Lavigne’s song, ‘Sk8er Boi’. I wanted to learn the lyrics so I could sing the song, not just humming. Then when I saw scary video clips on YouTube, I wanted to learn what they are actually saying. It didn’t matter whether they were grammatically corrected English or slang (even swearing), I wanted to understand their words and expressions. I would like to let my students learn like this. Let them be willing to learn by themselves, and simply be with it.

Also, as a teacher, I will always show respect to my students. I was never called by my name during English class in middle school. I did not felt bad about it, because it was accepted as a normal thing. But to think back to it again, I realized I don’t remember any of my English teachers, not only their names, their face, voice, anything. I was not respected as a student, and unconsciously I was not respecting my teachers as well. The only three teacher I remember are Mrs. Hole, Ms. Coffee, and Ms. Kate, who called me ‘Sunshine Sunny’. When I was in Hong Kong for three years, my nick name was Sunny, but my eyes were all day rainy. Because I could not communicate with classmates, I cried all the time staying alone. The three teachers came to me, kept calling me ‘Sunshine Sunny’ and became my friends. We sang songs together, shared a lunchbox together and read books together. Rainbow fish series are one of my favorites. I would like to become a teacher like them.

I believe teachers should consider the responsibility of their students’ future. Because the teacher during teenage life gives massive influence. To me, this is not only about English, it covers almost all education. I would love History if I met a current professor before. I might even dream about being an archeologist. I could be working as a professional designer by now, if I did not get degraded by my art teacher when I was 14. I will always keep it in mind that for teachers, a student could be one of hundreds changing every year. But to each student, there is only one.

“Hey, Linda. What’s up? What have you got for today?” “Hi, Peter. How are you? Do you have anything to share?” This will be my basic question to my class. If I become an English teacher. I would let students express whatever they want. And respect their ideas. From the TESOL course, I hope I could learn many different methodologies and methods of English teaching, get the opportunity to practice teaching more, and get feedback from my best colleagues. Based on this special experience, I wish that 10 years later, I will become a teacher, who inspires many students and lets them be able to play around with English.