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**Experience and Future Dreams**

TESOL139

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At the age of 8, I experienced a whole new world with my dad having to work

overseas. He worked for a trading company and so all of our family members; my dad,

mom and little brother had the opportunity to live in England and the US. My brother

being too young, didn’t attend school in England but I had the chance to participate in ESL

classes and move on to elementary school. It was quite a long time ago, but while reading

the handout ‘Second Language Acquisition’, I could remember my days of learning

English as a second language. I too experienced the four stages and can remember how

frustrated I was during the Nonverbal period. I remember talking with both English and

Korean mixed in a sentence. Still I could catch up really quickly and soon adapted well

and got along with the classmates. I think it was because I was young and also because I

learned the language through experience. I didn’t know then, but know I can see why and

how I could have successfully picked upEnglish. During the first TESOL class, we learned

about the ‘Three Learner Modes’. By listing each characteristics of the ‘Three Learner

Modes’ which are visual, auditory, and tactile-kinesthetic modes, I could see and agree

with lots of the characteristics in the visual and the tactile-kinesthetic learner modes. I am

very good at remembering faces but terrible with names, a dreamer and I remember best

what has been done. Living abroad, I was put into the atmosphere where I had to visually

see the differnce with the others and also speak English in everyday life. With my six

years living abroad, I can say that I can still read, hear, speak and write English as

comfortably as I can with Korean.

Living abroad did not only have a postive influnce in my English but I could also

experience a great amount of difference in the teaching methods between the foreign

countries and Korea. It sort of reminded me of the difference between the traditional and

modern classrooms. While studying abroad I experienced lots of group-work and we did

not stick to the textbook to learn something. For example, we learned science by growing

plants ourselves and experimenting with them. Rather than textbooks, we would learn by

finding things out by ourselves. The teachers would be our guides and if we didn’t know

something they would than explain or help us find the information we were looking for.

After I came back to Korea, it was all teacher-centered. Basically, it was all ‘Jug & Mug’

and very receptive. Being more of a visual and kinesthetic learner, I found it difficult to

follow my classmates and concentrate during class. Of course I can’t blame it all on the

teacher because I also lacked effort but I could soon see that I was behind the class.

Studying TESOL and also with my personal experience with teachers abroad and in

Korea, I now have a new dream. It is to become a teacher and help students learn English

in a easier, happier, and helpful way. I can’t remember the best teacher I’ve ever had but in

my image, I can imagine a good teacher as someone who understands and respects the

students’ needs and gives motivation by compliementing them. Each and every student

would have their own strong points in multiple intelligence. I found through a checklist

that I had high interpsersonal and intrapersonal skills. With my high level in interpersonal

strength, I would like get to know each of the students by careful observation and help

develop their English skills in the best way they can understand and learn. I would like to

be a teacher that I met when studying abroad. Through the TESOL course, I would like to

learn more and therefore become a teacher that is close to an involver and a conductor in

the way of teaching.

Thank you for reading.