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The good method of teaching Second languages

TESOL139

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Most people want to learn second languages more than one during their lives. It is our goal for living. For my personal experience, I also can say that I spent my whole life learning second languages. I studied English during teenager. Then, I started to learn Chinese after entering the university. I think the most important thing to learn second languages is how you pick up the language, the method of studying. I have good examples of the great way of teaching. I am going to compare two classes that I have taken before which is about the traditional and modern classroom.

First, I am going to give you an example about the worst class in my life. I took a Chinese class when I was a freshman in college. It was my first time to learn. I had a good impression about Chinese before taking this lesson because I knew some Chinese words. But, the thing was it was like the traditional classroom. The professor was strict and focused on receptive skills. Usually, students worked alone. The lessons were only based on textbooks. The professor was like ‘explainer type’. She just gave a lot of information and students just listened what she said. Also, the worst thing was the grading system. Even I worked hard and practiced a lot, I could get a low degree if someone got a better result than me. It made me feel uncomfortable and sad. I just studied Chinese to get better degree under pressure. It was not a good motivation for learning Second languages. That’s why I lost my interest for Chinese.

On the other hand, there was a good class compared with Chinese class. It was ‘English Discussion and Interview’ class. At that time, I did a lot of activities for learning English. I learned a lot of expressions that I’ve never used and did actual English interview for job application. My professor was very enthusiastic and passionate. His teaching style is like Modern classroom. Students always practiced something in a small group and shared ideas together. It is like student- centered. It made me feel comfortable and participated more. Also, he focused on communication with people, so I had a good relationship with my teacher. When I had some problems, he gave a lot of feedbacks and helped me a lot. He took care of each student. The more he cared, the more people participated in the lesson.

Like this result, the effective way of teaching is modern classroom. Students should be the one who stand for. It is not a language matter. The most important thing is Teacher’s role. If I had chance to meet Chinese teacher like ‘Involver’ type instead of ‘Explainer’, maybe I wouldn’t lose my interest for studying. That’s why I want to be a teacher like my English professor. Teacher should be the one who help students not for showing off their knowledge. Instructor should focus on communication. Under the comfortable atmosphere, students get better and better. The best way of learning second languages for student is showing your empathy, authenticity, and respect as a teacher.