\_\_\_an UN-FEAR summer CAMP\_\_\_

TESOL139

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S Gian

Once upon a time, when I still was a kid, << By the way: when i tell

"kid" i mean a little trouble maker.>>, my mother decided to have some

rest and sent me to a typical English camp located on a small island,

just in the middle of the sea between Italy and Africa. << i  know it

sounds like Alcatraz... >> After i packed up my things I took a plane

from Venice and  I leave for 4 weeks intensive course. I was not

alone, actually we was a bunch of kids from different nationality that

had totally different interests by learning a second language.

Malta Island  a territory where the official language spoken is

English; as well teacher there was talking a little of Italian and was

not fear to abuse of that. Arrived in the school where they was

supposed to teach they simply made a test and put us into class of

other 35. Lesions was block of 6 hours with a brake in the middle of

30 min, exactly from 8 in the morning till 2,30 pm. I do not remember

well what they was teaching but it was a sort of cycle (every time new

students came in the class they start again, and again, and again) <<

it was quite far from being an effective teaching>>. lesions was

divided by the ring of the bell and teacher was changing classroom and

teaching different subject (always english).

<<as a personal reflection thinking back to that time setting of that

place where we was supposed to learn some new skill it was more like a

factory than a real school, they did not thought of students like kids

but only like mug that need to be filled>>

My morning was divided among 3 teachers, that uses a way of teaching

that we can define classical, and activities like games and group

working. I've learn more exploring the island by my self that in that

6 hours of class and i am going to explain why...

Let's imagine this school with people from all around the word that

are going to learn an L2.

teacher by them side to decide to divide English(as subject) in

different main branch like grammar, lexis and practicing with four

ranks for each one. << that looks quite good, isn't that? ahh silly

me, in real that was owfull>>  young and bored teachers that can't

menage 15 students was trying to make a class of 35 students

following them. the method that they used was drilling for teaching

grammar, and lecture and exercise for others. they was using game and

group working when they could not keep the control of the class.

If i need to analyze this I can tell that main error was nor to

include games and group works in the teaching method but just for

using like support for keep the class. For example, teaching about

singular and plural with classical method and after 5mins(class making

mass) making a game based on colors. teacher type was an explainer

than in real for this case it must be an involver that uses game as

part of the teaching.