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TESOL Module 1 Language and Learning

**ESSAY ASSIGNMENT**

TESOL(143th, WK)

TEACHER: Jasmine

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I think I studied a second language, English, in a restrictive environment. Because it was very T-centered. I just took notes of the lecture. Also I didn’t have much experience of speaking English in a class. The class concentrated on a reading and grammar of English only. But there was a speaking class with foreign teacher. It was T-centered too. There was little Icebreakers and group working. I just answered when the teacher asked a question of me. At that time, I was very ashamed to make a mistake in a English class. So I never said anything in English except when teacher asked me something. I was passive student who was not trying anything in a class. That’s all I experienced English until high school. The rest is my university story about English environment. My major was English in my university. But there is no difference. The second story is very similar to second story. Teachers let their students do something and write down what they explain and write on a board. I studied hard on my school days but I feel my English ability didn’t improved greatly. Sure think my grammar and reading skills improved. Grammar and reading skills are important. But T-centered class which I experienced was very limited to students who want to improve their speaking and listening skills. It is not helpful and effective to develop English. I think the best effective environment of a second language is a class which is exposed to English so much. In order to do so, students should be leader in a class and teacher should make environment students are not afraid of making a mistake. Many group workings help students have confidence of English. Because group working lead people to have awareness of participation. Although it contributes to the group working very little, people can get confidence from it. Also, it becomes a motivation of English. From here, the role of teacher is to keep checking whether all students are participating group working or not. If there are students who don’t participate in the group working actively, the teacher should be their talking partner first and help them to be absorbed in the group. But, sometimes, teachers should be a center in a class. For example, in grammar lecture, teacher need to chalk on a board. teacher explains grammar to students enough, and then give a time to study a grammar by themselves with their own way. Actually, I studied grammar like this. My English grammar ability improved so much. Still, many people want to learn a second language no matter what it is, English, Japanese, Chinese and so on. I think there is no fixed teaching skill of a second language. However, a second language can be taught effectively when teacher and learner try together. It is not important who is center. Sometime, teacher should be a center in class. Other times, students should be a center.

In other words, nobody shouldn’t be a dictator who lead a class initiatively.