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Essay Assignment

TESOL 143th WK

Teacher : Jasmine

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“Don't judge a book by its cover" says, before you judge something, you need to take a deeper and closer look at it but can you guess what kind of person I am with a only few sentences about me?

When I read books (especially in English), it’s easier for me to understand, if I read it out loud. I am bad at memorizing the phone numbers and names but I can distinguish and remember the voices even if I have only spoken once. I used to have a habit of using voice recorder in class when I was in college. I listen to music 12~18 hours a day and I love being on a stage as a singer.

On the other hand, I have less interest about fine arts. I am a slow reader and sometimes when someone speaks to me looking at them distracts me to focus. I always have hard time reading a map and have a bad sense of finding directions.

You could probably tell that I am an “Audio Learner” and far from “Visual”.

Yes. I consider myself as an audio learner as well and I think my strongest intelligent among eight multiple intelligence, mine is Musical.

I went to College in Chicago to study jazz vocal when I was 22.

I enjoyed taking my music courses but all students were required to take English classes besides their major courses. Among 4 language skills, I always preferred speaking and listening rather than reading and writing. Most memorable class for me, was speaking class called, “The Public Speaking”, which was designed to build and improve the student’s presentation skills.

I was quite shocked when I first entered the classroom that I was only Asian in the class and who is not a native English speaker. When 15 classmates were staring at me, I was worried about if I could do well in class and I thought to myself that I might had to choose the easier class.

The learning experience that I had was very different from what I had in Korea. When I was learning English about 20 years ago it was very “Traditional” way of teaching.

Most of the teachers were “Explainer types”, Jug & mug and focusing on memorizing.

For the speaking class, I remember listening to audio tapes, repeating the sentences written in the textbook such as “Good Morning, Jane, how do you do?" and "Good morning, James, I am fine thank you and you?”

The atmosphere of the classroom and teaching style was completely different.

Every class, we had to prepare the speech and present in the class, following each week’s rules, such as managing time, how to choose the topic, body language, phonology and etc.

Therefore, in the classroom, the portion of 60~80% percentages of the talking, were student's.

Teacher tried to elicitate the student as much as possible in the class.

Students were encouraged to ask questions, give each other a feedback, evaluated each other and sometimes critically examined our own and others' speeches through interactive practice.

From this lesson, I have learned how important to understand individual learning modes and their own intelligence when it comes to second language acquisition.

Over all, it turns out it was most successful second language experience that I had.

Not only to improve my speaking ability but also the comprehensible input hypothesis of view. Because I wanted to avoid making mistakes in front of native speakers, I had to practice my pronunciation and prepare a perfect script for myself to avoid the grammatical errors.

I was satisfied that I felt much more comfortable speaking in public compared to before and found it very useful that I could apply to this skills to my real daily life.