My Dream as a Teacher of English Learners

## KNT145 Essay Eve Jiwon Park

When I was a kid, my dream was being a “good” teacher. However as I grew up, I did not have a chance to be a teacher and I forget about my dream. My university life studying economics was not what I expected. One day I sat down and thought about what I really want to became and what my dream was. I remembered my dream was to be a teacher. So I came to Korea and found the Times Media TESOL course.

When I first enrolled in this TESOL program, I expect to obtain some knowledges of being a teacher. I always wanted to be a teacher but I had no proper teaching experience. I like to play with little kids but I was really unsure what I needed to do or how I should teach people. Also I wanted to learn how to treat people with good manners. When I was in the university, I was a very quiet and shy person who cannot talk loud in front of the class. Even though I lived in New Zealand for 9 years, I thought my English is not good enough so I got worried about other people’s attention. Therefore, I wanted to overcome my problem and obtain self-confidence by watching other people. Gaining self-confidence in front of the students and teaching skills are the main outcomes what I hope to gather at the end of the class.

As I said in my introduction, my dream is being a “good” teacher. I wondered myself, ‘what is the good teacher?’ I suddenly think about who my best memorable teacher was. I could not choose the best one because I personally think I did not meet the best yet. However, there was one memorable teacher. She was my first New Zealand middle school teacher when I first moved to New Zealand. My English was really bad and I hardly understood what people said. Because of that my classmates bullied me and my other Korean friends who also barely understood. We told the teacher but she did not care. We could feel she did not like us because we could not speak English. She was good to other international students who did speak well. After this year, I promise myself that I would never act like her if I become a teacher. I promised I would treat everyone the same no matter what they are, such as the color of people, gender or their abilities. I know it is hard to treat everyone the same because the teacher is also a human who has emotions. But at least, I would try to like everyone and understand them. Otherwise they would immediately feel like I did not like or understand them.

One of my friends is the private tutor for middle-high school students. One day, one of her students told my friend that she is the best teacher she found. She improved her test score a lot because of her. However this is not the reason why it was her best teacher. The student said that her teacher did not only come to her as tutor-student relationship. Sometimes, the teacher was her friend, her advisor, her sister, and her mother. I think the really important method to get close towards the students is the “True Mind”. If I truly desire to understand and have an open mind towards my students, they will know and feel that. I believe that one day they will also open their mind and accept me. By accepting me, they will improve faster than anytime because my student and I will gain in trust between us.

I thought teaching English is just reading a textbook and answering questions, because this is how I learnt my ESOL when I was in New Zealand. I took ESOL classes for 3 years taught by all other teachers each year. I learnt English like studying other subjects. ESOL was the boring subject but one of my method to escape from the other native speaker. Now, I realize I should not learn English but I should use English. My dream as an ESOL teacher or English teacher is that I would let my students to use English to communicate with other native English speaker and be proud of themselves. I would tell them it is good to make mistakes and no one will think badly about you because you make mistakes. This is one of my problems that I am still struggling with. I know this will let people down to learn languages so self-trust and confidences are the key points I will teach to my students so that they are not afraid to learn.

In ten years later, I would be 30 years old and teaching English in a kindergarten in Korea or even be a director of the kindergarten. In the morning, I will walk into the class and start the morning with the lovely little 4-6 years old children saying, “Good Moring, Eve”. In the afternoon, I would look for more warm-up activities to introduce next morning to my adorable ones. I would laugh, smile, getting energy through my students. Of course, I would love my job and I am going to be thankful to me now as a 20 years old to make the right choice to challenge myself to learning TESOL and becoming the teacher. I know it is the big challenge of my life and it might be a hard to go through. One thing I should always remember I should be “Do not think you are the expert to teach and always improve yourself”.

On my first week of the class, I read one story called “A Teacher’s Story”. It was about a teacher meeting a special student and changing to a “real” teacher. The student also thanks to the teacher. He always wrote the letter to his teacher. If someone ask what my goal as a teacher is, I would say that at least one student says proudly to someone, “she is the best teacher I had”. I know to achieve my goal I need to put my effort as hard as possible, try to help my students with improvement and treat everyone with respect.