My Experience of Learning English

TESOL 148th WD

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Nowadays people think that English is important as a variety way of communication in economy, society, personal life, school, etc. the more society is globalized, the more English is essential for people to exchange their opinions.

When I recall my memories of learning English on public school in Korea, I was taught by very traditional teachers who are all -“the explainer”. Most of them were well known the English grammar and structure, but they just relied on one-way explaining or one-way lecturing as a way of transmitting information to the students.

I had to take a vocabulary test at the beginning of the class, so I thought the most important thing in studying English is the memorized ability of the vocabulary without considering diverse expressions with words.

I sat down in a row and just listened and took notes what I heard. Any question or group activity was not allowed by teacher at the English class. When I reviewed the notes after class, I couldn’t understand what it meant. I thought English class was boring and confused.

There was no motivation to learn English to me. Teachers didn’t consider individual differences and I thought that the English class was just for the students who were ranked high level at the exams. I struggled to get a good grade, so that situation made me nervous and stressful. The more I lost the interest about the English class, the more I didn’t spend enough time or effort on studying English. I think one-sided teaching method make students boring or distractive.

When I was a university student, I was interested in movies and dramas with language of English mostly. I wanted to develop my English skills especially on listening, speaking and reading because I wanted to watch movies or dramas without scripts and wanted to know about different cultures around the world. I think I was an auditory learner, so I liked to listen to some parts of dramas or movies repeatedly. I had been took notes and compared my notes and the scripts. After process of learning I tried to speak out if possible. I think that kind way of studying made me remarkable progress in my English skills. At that time, I took a conversation lesson at a private English institute. My teacher introduced himself to students as a nickname of nomad. He was a foreigner from U.S. He talked to students about his traveling stories and his personal experiences. I thought that were quite interesting. He also wanted to get to know about students. He was a kind of involver and sometimes an enabler.

He tried to make rapport with students. I was taught by many kinds of methods in his conversation class. He not only provided visual materials like pictures, short conversation examples and articles on interesting issues, but also tried to give students more chances to listen auditory materials like parts of drama and sample dialogues. Students had done group activities or role-play games after simple explanation, so it made the conversation class more actively as using a kinesthetic method. If students didn’t understand contents of the class, they could ask any question with smooth atmosphere. He told the students his own way of studying English, encouraged students to exchange their opinions and showed respect. If there were some mistakes on conversation class, he made positive feedback. It was helpful to me, so I could overcome my nervousness and tried to enjoy the conversation lesson even thought I was not perfect. I’ve been studying English for long time, but I know I have to develop my English ability continuously as second language acquisition. I’ve been taught by many teachers with various methods. As my experiences of studying English, I want to be a guideline for the students as a teacher who can consider many kinds of individual differences like visual, auditory and kinesthetic learners and I want to be more specialized in teaching methodology and will try to make rapport with students.