Learning Experience in English or Any Other Language

TESOL 149th WK

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Language is an important part of establishing a close rapport to communicate with others. Babies learn their language from their parents. They have a hard time walking and speaking language at the beginning. But, when they keep practicing walking and learning how to speak own language from their parents, babies know the way of speaking and walking. Babies receive everything from parents. When babies start talking and express themselves, parents understand them better.

My mother tongue is a Korean. The way of speaking, reading, writing, and listening in different language are totally different compared to my first language. There is a language barrier between Korean and other languages. In my experience of improving my second language, it reminds me of my high school under an exchange program. My first class on which I took was a communication class. It was really hard to catch up all the classes I took in high school because English is not my first language. Even though I took an English class in Korea, it was not helpful for following the lectures in high school in the U.S. The teacher I had was very helpful to improve my communication skills. There was not much to have a speech in high school in Korea, so the class I took in the U.S. was very valuable time for me. The first topic the communication teacher gave students including me was about any culture to present to my classmates. I had to search by my own and brought the lecture about my country in the class. Students in the class were interested and impressed about my culture and country. To understand my classmates clearly in English, I brought a paper which I prepared and presented them in the class. It related to *input hypothesis* which means visuals, charts, real objects to show audience to understand better and clear it to communicate with people. It comes with a positive feedback to encourage the risk. If sender express clearly, then receiver will understand clearly.

To practice pronunciation, students work in pairs to listen the sound so that they can heard and help each others. In my experience, I kept asking my host parents the pronunciation of alphabets to practice hard. I looked at the mirror in front of me and practiced the sound. Or, I mimicked my host family’s accent and remembered a full sentence. I just listened and repeated what they said to me. It was a fast way learning in different language. This example above is related to the method of *Audio-lingual.* Making a mistake is a one of the best way to learn in different language. Learning from textbooks has limited to learn in different language.

In order to make a successful classroom, we need to find out how well on students’ abilities, skills, and attitude of learning a new language. The ways of teaching styles are different depending on different teachers. There are three categories of teaching styles; explainer, Involver, and enabler. I had different teaching styles in my experience. Explainer is centered by teachers. It is a simple way to teach students, but I think it is ineffective to teach and lead students the right way. Students expect to take notes without any thinking, not involve any activities. It does not retain memories longer. However, having a role playing with people is a useful for beginners. They mimic teachers’ accent and movement which can memorize longer than they expect. Most of Korean students have an experience of explainer teaching styles. If I have a chance to teach my students in English, I would let my students not only taking a note but also playing some activities. It would help students come up with creative ideas.

There is no royal road to learning. But, leading a leader like a teacher is important part for students because it affects for them in the future. To be a good teacher, I think that a role playing and mimicking people’s accents are critical factors learning language. It is important that a leader like a teacher should teach and lead students what it is a right and wrong. It doesn’t matter whether student is an adult or a child. Student’s attitude might also affect by learning language. They should be open-minded and accept without a bias.