Topic: Think about your language experience in English or any other foreign language you have studied. What were some things your teachers did that were effective? What were some things they did that were ineffective? Why? Please relate your reasons to the material in module 1.

When I’m thinking of my foreign language learning process, I become to realize that the basic images of a teacher were largely drawn from what I had seen my own teachers doing. Some teachers were very effective and the others weren’t very effective in teaching. After I reflect the reason why, I come to a conclusion that all of the effective teachers were the enablers. The most memorable and effective teacher was my English teacher who really listened to me. Because my English speaking ability at that time wasn’t very good and I needed a lot of time to speak properly what I wanted to say. But he was so patient that I was able to take risks and to bring out the best in me. He showed a lot of respect toward me even though I found myself silly. The other effective foreign language teacher was the one that I had met in France. At that time, she had already retired from an official teaching position in a high school and taught French for foreign students as a volunteer. She had lots of teaching experience and great knowledge in various areas such as history, geography etc. as well as French language itself so that I was inspired much by her. I wanted to be a language teacher like her and to do that I really needed to learn deeply. She was really enthusiastic about teaching and her students felt the enthusiasm totally. Her personality and attitude also were really enabled me to keep going even if I was in trouble in learning the language. As for a third example in effective teaching, I can recall my Chinese teacher’s face. In external appearance, she seemed like a man. She was really tall and seemed to be very strict when I first saw her. But on the contrary to what I thought, she had a really good sense of humor and was one of the most pleasant people I’ve ever met. Thanks to her ability to make me feel comfort and to encourage me, I was able to learn quickly. In addition to it, she respected a lot my views and opinions so that I could learn the language with less fear of taking risks.

On the contrary to the teacher who were effective in teaching a new language, I realize that some teacher were not very effective mostly because they were the explainer. When I think back on my own experience of being taught Chinese, my teacher was a real explainer. He seemed to know his subject matter very well, but might have a limited knowledge of teaching method. The atmosphere of his classroom was very quiet and he just conveyed the information to the student. There were lots of people who came to fall asleep while he was teaching but he didn’t care much about them. Under those circumstances, I could not involve or challenge to his way of teaching. That was just boring. As for the other ineffective teaching case, I can recall my young English teacher who was a real ‘entertainer’. He was the teacher of English speaking class in a private institute when I was a university student. There were about 15 adult students including some office workers. For me, those office workers seemed to want to play not to learn new things seriously after they worked hard during the daytime. As far as I can recall, the young teacher didn’t’ know well how to control a variety of class members’ desires. He constantly talked a lot, told humorous stories and jokes etc. He might want to create a good atmosphere and good rapport in class but that’s not what I mostly expected from him. I was so disappointed in the middle of the class, so I couldn’t help but quit the class. The last case I can remember as an ineffective learning experience is that my English teacher in high school years. Especially when she taught us the grammar, I frequently got bored even though I enjoyed learning English. I couldn’t concentrate much what she wanted to let me know because it was really explanatory. I totally agree on the Scrivener’s assumption that people learn more by doing things themselves rather than by being told about them. That kind of explanatory teaching method can be informative and useful in some circumstances but cannot be effective for the learners.