Essay 1. A learning experience

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As we all look different, we all have different characters and different types of learning method. And it is hard to say which is right or wrong.

When I first saw the topic of our essay, There was one person in my memory that I thought right away. Her name was Blair and she was my English teacher when I went to high school in New Zealand.

At that time, I struggled to get used to new country. I felt like I became an 'Alice in wonderland' and I was just a little girl who only knows 'Hello' or 'Sorry'.

Since most of Korean starts to learn English from the elementary school, maybe I was a false beginner. But sadly, like most of other Korean children, my English skill was not good and especially speaking part was even more bad.

When the first semester started, she asked us to write a daily diary in English. It was a tall order for me because my life at that time was just an ordinary and monotonous routine and of course it was hard to write in English also.

At first, I just simply recorded the repetitive actions like ' I went to school today', ' I had a delicious dinner' and 'It was a pleasant day'. But surprisingly, I was more and more delighted to write diaries. I started to write down the minor events happened at school or the feelings I felt while talking with my friends. And I even wrote a secret stories deep in my heart.

At first, I could only write less than ten lines but as time went by, I could write enough to fill a sheet of A4. She corrected my wrong grammar everyday and left short comments sometimes.

Over time, my English skills improved and writing became one of my hobby.

Maybe the reason why this way of teaching was able to succeed to me is because I have a 'intrapersonal intelligence'.

Also, she often had a short discussion during class. She was kind of the 'enabler' and just let us think freely. She liked to tell amusing anecdotes and also liked to hear from students as well. I have both the characteristics of 'visual learner' and 'auditory learner', and her class satisfied the latter. And definitely, her teaching style was modernistic and was very effective for me.

On the contrary, I have bad experience for learning English also.

When I was a middle school student in Korea, there was a teacher who often called as ' sleeping pill' by students. As befits her nickname, her teaching was boring.

Students sit in rows and took notes what she said. there was no teaching tools except text book and she seemed to be interested only in grammar. The only thing we could learn from her class was just grammar and reading skill despite the subject name was 'English' (not 'Reading' or 'Grammar'!) As you can guess, there was no discussion or talk at all.

Her teaching style was traditional and old fashioned but I understand her now because I guess, when she was a kid, she might have learned English a more old fashioned way from her teacher.

Some students may be satisfied with such a lesson, and I can not say her way of teaching was unconditionally wrong, but one thing is certain that most of students in such a class are easy to feel bored and having trouble with concentrate.

In the past, we usually have focused on reading and translation, but nowadays, as the importance of speaking skills becomes a major interests to people, teachers need to adapt to modern teaching methods I think.

Because each student has different learning ability and preferred education method, teachers need to study different ways to teach more effectively and it is important to identify the characteristics of each student.