Melbourne & Dubai

TESOL 163

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I have two past experiences in learning the second language after graduating university. Precisely speaking, the first experience was my overseas study to learn the language in Melbourne, Australia and the second experience was more likely to be the job training as I was employed for Emirates airlines in Dubai, The United Arab Emirates.

Both of my experiences were successful, although those two learning language environments were very different. In Melbourne, I started with the English language course with other international students. We were only allowed to speak in English in the classroom even with the same nationality. In the beginning of the course, nobody was competent enough to speak out in English. We were all very passive students so the class was very teacher centered as we did not want to be involved in. Therefore, the teacher was more explainer to us by using text book and we focused on rather more listening and reading than speaking. As time went by, the students got along well and became little more confident in the classroom. As we became to speak in English one another more fluently, the teacher tried different activities such as playing games in groups, drawing pictures and paring-works to make us putting great deal of efforts for learning. All those various teaching techniques from the teacher was good and effective, specially the group work and role play were the most effective for spoken language. The teacher was very patient throughout the course and well aware of cultural differences among students that respected all of us at all times. The teacher’s authenticity for teaching and empathy for students leaded us to complete the 6 month program successfully.

I would not say that the period of 6 month was enough to learn English perfectly, however, the time definitely gave each one of students more confidence to step up to the next level. In fact, the teacher encouraged me to take further education which was the hospitality management. The curriculum of this diploma course was consisted of 2weeks theory and 2weeks on the job training at the hotel. Therefore, I was exposed to be in the environment to communicate with people after theory lecture classes.

That period of the time, the competency of my spoken English was rapidly improved.

As I have mentioned in the beginning of this essay, my second experience in learning the second language environment was more likely to be the job training.

After finishing the hospitality management course, I came back to Korea and got the job as a flight attendant. The Emirates airline company was based in Dubai and used the English as an official language for all employees. All flight attendants have to be trained for 2 months before flying. The training college had a great facility and instructors for new Ab-initios. Especially, the way of teaching from training instructors was excellent. Most of training session was held using visual objects, realia as we conducted service mock up in the aircraft classroom and they used modeling by repeating, rephrasing or slowing down when we did not understand. In my training group, there were 12 trainees. The first two weeks, lots of new information was poured into our brains and all of us were stressed out. The instructors were very helpful for us to overcome the hardship and showed empathy as they had been in our situation.

During the training course, we took lots of demonstrations, role playings, group discussions and service practices by doing which was all high learners’ retention rate. From each training session, we were given either positive feedback or constructive feedback for improving from instructors. The 2 months training program was very intensive and tough however, the design of the training program was very efficient and effective for new beginners to start flying.

Those two experiences were very valuable and fundamental for me to have been high self-esteemed in learning.