Essay Assignment

Title: My experience of learning English in Korea

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My name is 송애리 in TESOL CLASS 173th. I`m going to write about my experience of learning English as the second language in Korea. I started to learn English when I was 14years old, the first year of my middle school. I had never encountered English before entering my middle school. I can`t never forget the time when I heard my English teacher speaking. The sound of her speaking was so impressive, attractive, and even beautiful to me. Though she wasn`t that pretty, young and tall but her speaking was enough to make me interested in English. I liked the sound and pronunciation of English and I felt as if I had been struck by lightning. So I began to study hard English from then. But studying English at school in Korea didn`t make my thirst solved.

In my opinion, the teachers in my school were very traditional and strict like an “Explainer” teacher type. Because the teachers at my school just taught students grammar, kinds of conversation patterns to make us get good scores to level our abilities. As a result, I got a good grade in English reading and writing test but when I had a chance to enter an English speaking contest I failed to win a prize, feeling disappointed with my speaking ability. Because the topic of conversation in the contest was so various such as friends, cooking, and other countries that I couldn`t answer the questions from the judge. It was true that I wasn`t good at speaking owing to my knowledge limitation of English as a language. At that time I acutely realized the environment of learning English at school was limited to me.

Now I`m going to write about my recent experience of learning English. I`m in my forties and I didn`t have many chances to use English due to my early marriage. But I still wanted to develop my speaking. Then I decided to attend basic conversation class for adults at Song Dam University in Yongin 4years ago. I really liked the class. The teacher made the atmosphere small, warm, comfortable for beginners and he respected his students. Moreover, he is always kind, generous, humorous teacher who has much knowledge about teaching English and cultures of other countries. He taught us grammar, conversation patterns and made us write short essays our own and read various materials. He usually observed to see if anyone couldn’t understand his lectures and gave easy tips to solve the problems for slow students. For advanced students, he gave them some challenging subjects to discuss about one another. Sometimes he gave us interesting games like role playing, Jeopardy, some quiz to give us different kinds of experiences for learning English in the class and enough time to think and express our ideas needed for the subjects. To practice 4skills at the class was good enough to develop our English because we were all mature adults who seriously wanted to develop our abilities. I`m sure he was a great motivator, communicator, and “Enabler” teacher type for his students. Still he is a good teacher and only foreign friend to me, sending text through Kakao talk even though he left to America, his homeland two years ago. He was impressive to me at the class so I respect him as a good English teacher. I think he is fit with modern style teacher.

If I can have a chance to teach teenage students, I would like to be a good communicator and motivator to them. I want to make my class creative, active, warm using 4skills and mixed teaching methods at the same time. I`ll not only give them good environments to express their ideas in English but also try to deliver various knowledge about language. To be such a good teacher, I`ll study hard teaching methods at TESOL class to understand my students and maximize student centered learning. Thank you for reading my first essay for TESOL class.