**1st Essay Assignment**

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1. Intro

Learning the 2nd language has become more natural these days and people can choose many different languages that they want to learn. Among those languages, English which is the most widely used all over the world is not just the mother language for several countries anymore. While we can experience the foreign cultures by internet, travelling and cultural exchange, etc, learning English is not only just the academic approach, but also a good way to have better understanding of the different points of view in their cultures. As I have 6 years of learning English from mid school to high school and several chances to visit foreign countries, I will show the pros and cons that I experienced in various ways of learning English.

2. Pros

There are 3 certain ways that helped me to improve my English skill much better than before. First of all, it is ‘Try to describe a word before asking’. When learners can’t remember a particular word that they want to use, the teacher ask them to try explaining the word instead of asking or searching a dictionary. By doing this, the learners have a long explanation with different vocabularies to describe the word. It was the first time for me to experience a different way of teaching besides of the Explainer teacher. Therefore, the whole sentence got much longer than intended but it helped me great to keep staying active to prepare more words and grammars in my head faster.

Secondly, it is ‘a Debate’. Once the debate is opened, the learners start controlling the class as they insist, refute and toss the topic to the next runners and I think this is a perfect example of the Enabler teaching. After the teacher just form a stage and goes one step backward, the learners have to cooperate with their teams to prepare the debate. While doing this, the learners can improve several intelligence skills such as the Verbal by making an argument, the Logical by setting a formation and an order, and the Interpersonal by discussing with teammates.

The last, it is ‘Showing learners the actual usages of what they learn’. Instead of just reading and memorizing textbooks, learners can have visual experiences through newspapers, magazines and movies, and auditory experiences through songs and etc. while the teacher shows them how all the words and grammars are actually used in everyday life. Moreover, this helps learners to experience the different culture closer.

3. Cons

Most of the cons I felt were from my school days and only few of what I learned are left now. First, it is ‘Only for academic purpose’. The lecturing is the only way to proceed the class and the learners have to memorize all the vocabularies and phrases. After that, the learners take the exam only for what they have memorized. The teacher is a Explainer, however, because of the class only demands the direction, the teacher does not have any motivation to teach or communication with the learners. Thus, the learners focus only on the reading skill most of time.

Next, there is no chance for the learners to experience the actual conversation during the class. Because learning English in that class is only for the exam, the learners don’t need to practice the speaking and listening skills. Therefore, the learners easily become scared and nervous when they meet foreigners because they are lack of the experience to speak.

Finally, if the teacher doesn’t have any experience or knowledge of the English-speaking countries and he/she is not motivated to improve it, it is harder for the learners to understand the different cultures. The learners should always concentrate that they are learning not just the foreign language but the culture itself. Without understanding of its culture, the full meaning which was intended originally might hardly be delivered.

4. Conclusion

Nowadays, the English learning environment has become much better than before. For example, the native English speaker is in the school, more various tools for the learners’ experiences. If the will and the motivation of the learner was the most important element of learning English in the past, I insist that the environment for the learner to have that will and motivation is much more important these days. By having more broad participations and chances for the their experiences, English could be more friendly way to face the world instead of just becoming a difficult and a fearful foreign language.