174th WK Julie(안주영) 1st Essay Assignment

 Since I started learning English when I was in the first grade of the middle school, I had met a number of teachers until graduated from university.

As far as I remember, most teachers had taught in a traditional way like ‘The Explainer’. They seemed to be authority figures who gave lectures based instruction without any discussions and group activities.

They had just taught through the textbooks and spent a lot of class time using the board to explain things, so the class was conducted mainly with explanations and instructions from the teachers. That was why I became a passive student in learning English.

Specifically, I had to memorize a huge of phrases and grammars just like math formulas to take the exam during my school life. In addition, we learned English by interpreting sentences in Korean. I didn’t have any chance to communicate with each other in English. Even when I learned speaking, we filled in the blanks on papers after memorizing dialogues. For these reasons, I had a hard time communicating with someone in English.

By contrast, I had an experience that I met an English teacher who was helpful to me after I became an adult. I went to English academy to improve my skills a few years ago. To be honest, I was really amazed due to his teaching methods which seemed to be a modern style. When I took this class for the first time, he showed us a short film on a big screen. It made me have fun to learn English. He taught us not only by practicing to make various sentences using the patterns we learned each day but also by using films, news, and songs on a big screen.

He knew subject matters that is being deal with, and tried to involve us actively and put a great deal of effort into finding appropriate ways for students who have individual multiple intelligences

He realized this class was limited in providing opportunities for us with such diverse methods. So he suggested joining a ‘study group’ before class. In the study group activities, we made some rules for ourselves that ‘English zone’ and if someone is late or doesn’t do homework, he or she has to pay a little charge every single class. Besides, we learned for ourselves by role play in pairs based on what we learned. It led us to actively participate in learning language.

Our study members occasionally went to see a play or went on a field trip together with my teacher or sometimes without him. Plus, he made a suggestion that we create a group chat room on Kakao Talk where we can share homework and talk freely about our daily lives to autonomous learning. Through those experiences, I had many opportunities to learn English. He even gave Starbucks card those who weren’t absent every month. It prompted me to attend in class as well.

Therefore, I think my teacher has both ‘The involver’ and ‘The enabler’ teaching style.

Judging from above two experiences, when I learned from ‘The explainer’ teachers, despite helping me learn English, I felt bored and couldn’t learn a lot as a language. It resulted from they taught the students without regard to learner modes like visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners.

I prefer kinds of ‘The involver’ and ‘The enabler’ teachers because they motivated me to actively involve over and over. My teacher had an awareness of how the learners are thinking and feeling, so he could plan and use appropriate methods based on multiple intelligences such as videos for visual intelligence, singing for musical one, role play for interpersonal one, homework for intrapersonal one, note-taking for verbal one, and field trip for kinesthetic one. It’s astonishing that he used most of them.

 I’ve been teaching pre-school kids for the past one and a half years.

As I learned this ‘Language and Learning’ module, I looked back on myself and reflected a lot.

By taking this course, I hope I could be a better teacher to the learners who have multiple intelligences.