177thDW Chris ( 이승희 )

My ESL experiences with teachers based on studying Module 1

 I started learning English when I was 10. Because my brother was preparing to enter the junior high school. The English tutor for my brother was a woman at that time and she extended her teaching generously to me too. She used the GT (grammar translation) method and was a perfect expainer. By studying with her, I obtained all of the basic vocabulary and grammar. It was fun and getting confidence time because I had a good memory with a competitive heart. Therefore, I still feel sorry for my brother snatching at his answers. English turned to his worst achivement during the junior high in that way.

 I spent successful time during my junior high and high school days. Classmates often asked me for being their English tutor at school. Do you want to know when my victory faded away? It never ever could appear again in my college days. Because I had to speak English conversation in my fresh year. I had to register a required English class. The professor was a native American man with less TESOL experiences, I believe. Because I still remembered his awkward look on his face.

By the Krashen’s Natural Order Hypotheory, I was about to speak word by word in English. I had only listened to teacher’s English teaching and memorized what I learned to get good grades. I was not ready at all at that time for speaking a sentence. However, he neither guided me nor waited for me how to speak a sentence. Without getting respect or any encouragement, I finally got C+ at the end. Yes, I know I might be more ready ofr the course by myself but it was painful anyway. Soon one of my friend and I made up ‘English Conversation Group Activity’ at the Army Base in Yongsan. It was the great time to build up my oral communication ability in English. How lucky I was! I met my husband in that activity group.

 This is the last experience of my ESL among the big three. Can you guess what it would be my next step? Certainly, it was a writing course. Writing is another matter comparing with speaking. I have to convey my thoughts by contextual expressions. It was she. She did not do icebreakers and had no sense of humor unfortunately on the first day of the writing class. I was sad that I could not comprehend her teaching because she was neither a good explainer nor an involver.

I was expecting that she expained about what the elements of writing, how good writing like, helpful references and so on. She mostly dominated leading the class, classmates and I suppressed even asking questions. I also felt bad to say this, but she was not a helpless enabler at least. She was trying hard to correct all of the grammatical errors I made like missing articles. When I got my essay back, I saw red markings all over on my paper. My purpose was getting some alive expressions of the native usage. However, it was so intimidatiing to share my wish with her. Another mistake she made was that she did not survey the exact levels of her students. We were kind of an intermediate level of speaking with not much writing experiences. From her class, I did not gain any development, even lost the writing appetite.

 During wirting this essay, I am reflecting myself as an ESL teacher. I realized that I made, in some past time, similar errors that diminished students’ eagerness.

This essay is a wonderful feedback for me. Thank you, teacher.