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My best teacher in my Japan

Ms Takahashi was the best teacher I ever had in my life. I met her when I moved to university in Japan as an exchange student. All of students including me were foreigner students who could not speak Japanese well. Our university’s aim was to make foreign students’ Japanese skill to native speaker’s level before we took a regular classes with Japanese students. We were upper intermediate level, we made small grammatical errors and nervous about doing speech in Japanese with recording. We had a difficult training course with lots of homework every day. I studied with her for only half of a year but I knew that time was a rapid improvement period of my Japanese skill.

Ms Takahashi was a kind enabler who allowed us to create our own ideas and do debates about various topics. We did a variety of activities and group discussions. I thought she was a great manager of our class. She was monitoring our discussion and when it finished, she gave us comments, explained about missed words and incorrect grammar. Sometimes, she allowed us to create our own ideas and speak up about a variety of topics. We participated actively by ourselves and we had plenty of chances to say our opinion in front of the class. It helped me a lot when I got my very first job interview. I could easily discuss topics with the Japanese interviewee and finally I passed the interview.

My university had a strict traditional Japanese style studying course using individual work and text books but Ms Takahashi found relevant and interesting activities for us. We had traditional activities such as Japanese traditional flower arrangements, and Japanese traditional tea ceremonies. We studied not only Japanese words but also Japanese culture with her.

If she only taught reading, the retention rate would have been low, about 10%. she tried various teaching techniques such as discussion groups and experiential learning which kept our retention rate to 75-80%.

My most warm-hearted teacher Ms Takahashi, who was a good enabler had a modern teaching style, used a variety of activities and group work, and sometimes used traditional teaching techniques. she made a low-anxiety learning environment and kept us motivation, self-confidence and self-esteem. I did not know that she applied affective filter hypothesis but I can say she did a good job applying from Stephen Krashen’s hypothesis. But that half of a year for all time in my mind, the most impressive thing from her is felt that she respected us and she empathized with our problems. Students remember genuine teachers, not just humorous teachers.