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Teaching like a gift

My best teacher was Mr. Lee who taught English when I was in high school. He lived at the apartment where I lived. So Mr. Lee gave me a lift to school almost every day. He was so kind-hearted, friendly and funny. And he was an effective teacher. At that time, I was not interested in English and I do not think I knew how to study correctly and effectively. But I learned so many things like a gift from him. The reason I can say that is that not only he respected all students, but also he tried to look everything through our eyes all the times. Also, Mr. Lee was a teacher who used the modern teaching like group activities. And he wanted all of us to participate everything. Finally, He taught us with enabler teaching type. This is the biggest reason why I remember him as the best teacher. Moreover, Mr. Lee was positive all the times and tried to know and understand what we worried about. For these reasons, most students liked him, many of them were able to get interested in English and we could not help focusing on his class and most of the students had good grades at that time. That is why I can say that it was a completely successful class.

Like I said, He was an enabler with good ideas. He told us to buy an English - English dictionary on the first day of class. We were unfamiliar with the dictionary at first, though he taught us how to use and read the dictionary step by step. He never forced us to memorize words like the other teacher did, he helped us to understand sentences more correctly and memorize them more easily with the dictionary. Eventually, using it became a habit. Even though he did not tell us, we got to consult the dictionary on our own when we were studying. These teachings of him made me remember the words and sentences I memorized at that time.

Also, he let us write a script of a play and perform the play once a month. We had a hard time writing the script. Because we were not good at writing something in English. Actually we could not understand why we had to do it in our English class. But we had to do it, we asked each other and shared our ideas. As time goes by, we did hard. The students who did not like English got to enjoy it, which improved our writing skills and pronunciation. And we were able to learn things that we could not learn from a textbook by Mr. Lee. Through this group activity, we could not only study but also develop a sense of cooperation that would be helpful in society. It was not the one-way teaching, but the modern teaching. It made our class and passive students more active.

Considering how much I learned and how well I have been remembering what I learned, I think Mr. Lee already understood Input Hypothesis and Natural Order Hypothesis and so on for Second Language Acquisition of us who were in pre-production stage or early-production. And he seemed to tried to increase our retention rate to 80-90% by applying discussion groups/cooperative learning, experiential learning and teaching/mentoring others techniques, not just reading or lecture. Thanks to these teaching and his effort, I believe that all students including me who learned from Mr. Lee will not forget what we memorized and learned. Although time goes by.

At that time, Even though we studied English with thick and heavy English -English dictionary that was called ‘Long Man’ because smartphones were not as advanced as they are now, he made us understand more correctly and study more effectively on our own with his enabler teaching type. So the students even who hated English were able to take the class happily, enjoy it together and get interested in English more than before I think. Also, because I have been helped by it and using it when I studied for all kinds of English test until now, I think what Mr. Lee did was a successful teaching. In the future, I hope I can teach my students like Mr. Lee did and become a good, cool, supportive and respective teacher.