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My Best Teacher

When I first went abroad to study in Nanaimo, I only knew how to say basic greeting words, and I did not have much confidence. I could not contact my eyes with strangers whenever having conversations with strangers, because I was afraid to make small mistakes. At that time, I was at the beginner stage of learning English as an L2. And I met Ms.White when I was in 10th grade. I took her ESL course with international students from many different countries. From taking her course, I started to have confidence, and enjoy having conversations with strangers. From her passionate and caring, I started to pick up words and meanings fast; which it helped me to make friends who speak English as their first language. Gradually, I got better grades in other courses as well as my English level grew up. Ms. White might not be the one who is the greatest of the greatest teachers in the entire universe. However, as I got a chance to pick one best teacher in this essay, I thought of Ms. White and her effective, also motivating curriculum. Therefore, through this essay, I would like to introduce her modern teaching methods in detail and how she, Ms. White, fits the definition of an ‘enabler’ teacher.

Ms. White’s class was always full because of her popularity. As I tried to recall the first day of class, it actually was a mess. There were students who were from different countries and of course, students had different first languages. We had trouble communicating with each other due to our cultural differences, different accents, and previous language learning environments. However, Ms. White understood each students’ concerns and needs in learning a new language. She always tried her best to make the class relaxed and cozy for international students. The class itself was more like a family. More importantly, the class had no authority gap, so we had less anxiety attending her class to learn English. She would listen to us whenever we struggled in projects or learning English. Furthermore, there was no captain in our class but all of us were the leaders of the class. Most of the time she gave us equal chances to speak to appeal our opinions, and solve problems through discussion. In all aspects, Ms. White had ‘empathy’, ‘authenticity’, and full of ‘respect’.

She understood individual learner differences, so for each day, she brought several different activities for each class. Most of her activities contained ‘visual’, and ‘auditory’ learning modes, which helped ESL students of beginner levels to gradually motivated in learning English. For visual and auditory teaching methods, she often used popular media such as pop-songs, or showing famous dramas and movies on a screen; which students at that age would be pretty interested. By singing and learning popular songs, remembering new vocabulary felt easy and fun. Furthermore, the activity itself helped to make interactions as well as improving students’ fluency in pronunciation and speaking.

Not only did she use visual and auditory methods to entertain and teach her students, but she often made us do outside activities; the ‘naturalistic’ activities (e. collecting specific objects, playing mini-games). Because our class accepted disabilities, cleverly, Ms.White used the naturalistic activities, and it was effective to all students. Especially, touching, smelling, and describing in speaking, texts or drawings of an object was an excellent activity, using all the visual, auditory and kinesthetic methods of learning. It was not only made for teaching her international students, but she considered her disabled students. Through many discussions and group activities that are mentioned above, we naturally learned to respect each other. Furthermore, most of her assessments were had to be done in groups, so we were classmates and supporters. At at the same time, we were also each others’ teachers and mentors. So learning English was not only about competing to us, but it was also a way of sharing thoughts and supporting each other as partners.

The memorable ESL teacher Ms.White was a very modern teacher who always put her students first. She taught her students with passion, and she was respectful to her students. She was a genuine person when it came to teaching students. Because it was not a big school, the ESL classroom was small compared to other classrooms, but Ms.White’s sincere and professional attitude towards education improved us both mentally and linguistically.

Ms. White often said, ‘learning a new language should be always interesting and enjoyable’. I, one of the students who took her class, think she is successful in terms of teaching language, and as I mentioned previously, she is a great example of an enabler. As I am a beginner of teaching right now, I will keep in mind how Ms. White taught her students with sincerity, and I will continue to study to become a teacher who motivates students and encourages them to have a positive development of learning English.