Language gives people good opportunities to communicate with each other and helps them share their cultures with others. As you know, English is one of the best languages that people usually speak. We can easily say that English is universal language. Unfortunately, Korea is a smaller country than America. That is why most Korean need to learn English for getting job, good grades, and so on. When children go to preschool, they start to learn English and Korean. Moreover, most Korean mothers are interested in education how their children learn English well. So, mother and I decided to go study abroad in the Philippines when I was 15 years attending middle school student because we know that English can give me more opportunity to achieve my dream being a politician.

When I went to the International World Mission School in the Philippines, I was shocked because of the culture and using English. Even though Korea and Philippines are located in the East, our cultures are slightly different. Besides, I couldn’t understand what the teachers are talking about. It was completely different that I usually learned English in Korea. At the first time, I just wanted to escape the situation speaking English and I was afraid to speak English. However, I started to speak and listen carefully after a month. I made a concerted effort to learn English to survive at the unfamiliar environment. As a result, I can attend classes with international students and make a lot of friends. After graduating from high school in the Philippines, I decided to go university of Iowa in the U.S.A to experience other culture and want to broaden my horizons because in the U.S.A., there are many people who are from different countries and have different cultures. Even though studying abroad gave me a hard time and sometimes I felt lonely, I think it also gave me an opportunity to experience making friends who have different cultures, attending classes with classmates who are from different nations, and so forth.

As we learned the concepts in the TESOL class, there are two different teaching types, traditional and modern. The traditional type is one way teaching style that teacher gives lecture and students just listen it. Eastern countries usually use this style in school and students just need to memorize textbooks without discussion and personal opinions. On the other hand, Western countries apply modern type. The modern style requires students’ attention and participation. It means teacher just manages class and students discuss about the topic, share their opinions, and rethink the concepts in the textbook.

Likewise, teacher types are different between Eastern and Western education. Eastern teaching style is Explainer basically students listen. Nowadays, Eastern country tries to change Involver teaching style which is teachers apply various activities demonstrating techniques. However, it is difficult to change education style and students already accustom teaching by rote. In contrast, Western country manages classes with Enabler which gives students freedom to do the work and to increase individual investigation. The universities in the U.S.A. operate discussion class with each lecture courses. So, the university students need to attend discussion class, if they want to take lecture course and to get good grades.

By studying abroad in the Philippines and the U.S.A., I can compare and contrast the difference between Eastern and Western education. It gives me positive and successful experience to study English. I think textbook is good guide book to get knowledge. However, it can’t teach us the practical knowledge. The best way to study English is to go study abroad in the other country and to experience different culture and life style directly. Because, language is not only learning, but also it is part of one’s culture.