TESOL #1 Essay

- Second Language Acquisition

66th TESOL

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It is very difficult thing for everyone to learn a new language and it is easy to give up their learning even if people have learned second language for a long time. I thought it many times. Since I was 10 years old, I have learned English in Korea from elementary school to University and it has been 14 years. I have never been to other country using English to study but I am majoring in English in Dong-duk Women’s University. For a long time, I have learned English from many English teachers and I like English. But I had no confidence in English. Certainly, many students study in an inefficient way, so that long hours of hard work achieve much less than they could including me. Fortunately, before graduation from the University, when I was senior, I met my best teacher, Kyungju-Loh, last semester. She is famous as a good teacher even though her class is very tough. It was first time for me to take her class. She is Korean, but she uses only English like native speaker all the time. By taking her class, I brought some valuable things.

Firstly, in the past, from middle school to high school, I had learned English only focusing on grammar, writing, and reading. Especially, I thought speaking and listening part didn’t deal with in previous schools. Because of this curriculum I had learned, whenever I use English, my focus was whether grammar is correct or not. However, in her class, she was willing to deal with four language basic skills; reading, writing, speaking, listening. Every student in the class has to use only English. It was very challenging for me but helpful.

For the next thing, in the class, she always showed respect to every student. She said we are all equal in this class. She established a friendly open atmosphere with students. She tried to concern about each student’s trivial things and to listen to student’s thought. Also, she empathized with student’s problem. In my case, because I was poor at speaking and listening, she would encourage me to have confidence. She tried to speak slowly for me and give me a feedback when I speak English. In addition, because I have always concentrated on only my grade not English skill and ability, I consulted with her my grade. She would like to say that if I did my best and feel proud of what I did then the grade is really trivial. Thanks to her, my goal of learning English had been changed. It would be more focused on improving English skill than grade.

Finally, most teachers from middle school and high school were all explainer. Almost every lecture was teacher-centered. It was one-way communication. However, Loh is an involver and an enabler to students. She always involved the class and made the students do many activities. She tried to make the class student-centered and to communicate individuals. At the beginning stage of TESOL course, it was very surprising for me that Loh taught me in an effective way.

It was successful learning for me that I have learned from her. I decided to become a teacher and I would like to be a teacher like her. She is my role-model. I will apply the things that I experienced through her to students in the future. I will keep in mind what she told me. It was “I have absolute faith that each individual student is a valuable person with endless potential.  I believe that each student once she/he feels connection with the instructor draws out her/his intellectual potential and achieves their individual study goal.”