**Learning English based on my personal experience**

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As I have experienced many situations in learning English, I want to introduce my language learning experiences applied to concepts such as traditional versus modern classrooms, teacher types and effective teaching styles. When I was an elementary school student, I lived in the country, which is located in Gyeonggi-do, Korea. I had not many opportunities to take English class at that time. Along the way, when I was 10 years old, somebody introduced an English teacher, called Ms. Yoon-joo, Seong. She was a member of ‘Yoon’s’ institution and had a passionate interest in teaching English. Moreover, she was very active, lively, and respectable teacher. As I had a class once a week with her for four years, I began to pay attention in learning English and it became my foothold to go study abroad.

Learning English at The Manurewa High School in New Zealand with Mrs, Liu, from the middle of August, 2004 to the end of November, 2006, was different compared to Ms. Seong’s class. There were, of course, many differences such as cultural, language and learning environment, but also the type of classrooms was different. I learned English in the traditional classroom with Ms. Seong, but my new class in New Zealand was relatively modern. Although both of my two teachers in Korea and New Zealand were very high-quality and outstanding teachers, but the classroom atmosphere affected students in learning English differently. For example, in my traditional class in Korea, the teacher did not use the computer to show us some examples that might help in understanding some words or expressions more easily. She prepared many of flashcards instead of the technology uses, however it is hard to catch students’ eye all the time. On the other hand, in New Zealand, students should speak only English because there were many students who came to New Zealand from many other countries. Therefore, group working and lots of students centered activities were processed during the class to develop student’s English skills more naturally. My teacher always tried to find out more interesting visual stuff from the Internet and it became extremely useful resource for the class.

Secondly, there are three types of teacher, which are the explainer, involver and enabler. If I think back my two teachers in Korea and New Zealand, they were the enabler teachers who were “confident enough share control with the learners, or perhaps to hand it over to them entirely” like what Jim Scrivener exactly stated. For example, my teachers explained kindly, if students did not understand. Moreover, during the activities, they involved in our group to control and realize how the procedure goes. Furthermore, they acted like a member of our class so they really participated with students. The atmosphere of my class was always good, everyone enjoyed our class, and most of students developed their English in the end.

Thirdly, based on the teaching techniques or styles what I learned about in my TESOL course, Ms. Seong focused on the Grammar-Translation Method, which is the most common teaching technique in Korea and other countries traditionally. Therefore, grammar and reading were essential in the class. However, Ms. Liu, my New Zealand English teacher used the Direct Method through the use of demonstration and visual aids to help students to approach student’s needs and wants. It was really interesting that there was no translation allowed but my class in New Zealand, greatly, helped me to develop my English skills.

In conclusion, although I have experienced two different types of learning my second language, both of the learning experiences were highly success. My teachers are memorable people for me and they gave me the great opportunity to acquire the knowledge of English. There is not the right method or technique in teaching, but I, personally, insist to use Direct Method that I really learned many things from. In my TESOL program, I realized that teachers should know the subject matter well, be well-organized, enthusiastic and really listen to their students. As Herbert Spencer stated “education has for its object the formation of character”, I, again, noticed teaching is not the only way to teach knowledge of studying, but also personality. Therefore, I want to be an enabler teacher to help my students to be intellectuals who have a good character.

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