**My teaching beliefs based on my experience**

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**Dec.26.2011**

**TESOL Program**

There are lots of teaching methods in teaching English. Your first language comes naturally, but learning 2nd language is very challenging. As I grow up, I've met several English teachers since I was 7 years old. Among those teachers, the most impressive teacher I remember is the teacher from my college last year. Comparing other teacher I've had so far, the teaching method of Mr. Gibson was the most effective and influenced the students who are learning their 2nd language.

I went to U.S.A when I was 14 years old. When I was a freshman in high school, I took every class with American student except English class. I had to take ESL class for a year before I joined the regular English class with other students. As I look back, the ESL class that I took was a failure I think. I don't remember much of it, but I sure remember that students never had a chance to speak other than reading a textbook. She was a typical traditional English teacher. There were no students to student’s interaction whatsoever. She explained a lot on terms of lexis and grammars and made the students read the textbook in the class. During that time, my speaking skill didn't improve at all, but my listening skill improved little bit. After a year of ESL, I finally joined the regular English Class. But in that class, I couldn't adapt to the environment because students would express their opinions about their readings that were assigned to them and would discuss in the class unlike ESL class I took. I couldn't even speak a sentence in front of other students. It surely got better time to time but it was very hard for me.

Because of my stay in U.S.A, learning second language wasn't that hard compared to people in Korea. I picked up phrases or words from people for TV as time goes by and also, during that time I've several American friends. And most importantly, I needed to speak English to survive. Everywhere I go, I had to speak up for myself. It wasn't like I studied English. I don't even remember when I looked up dictionary last. I cannot imagine the difficulties when people in Korea try to learn English. I had taught English about a year when I got back from U.S.A. The institute that I worked for had their own lesson method. They mainly used Audio-lingual method and one to one lesson. The lesson consists of two parts. The first part of lesson is with a Bilingual teacher. During that time I used to go over their homework which is memorizing sentences or a dialogue. I used to fix their pronunciations and their accents according to the audio program. And the second part of the lesson was with a Native teacher. During that time, students get to talk with a native speaker on certain topics. In my opinion, these were pretty good system for learning English. Even though the teaching methods were fixed and limited, I think I tried to interact with the students and make them talk a lot but still I was more like an explainer or involver than an enabler.

When I reapplied for college in Korea, taking English class for 1 semester was a requirement for graduation. Even though I don't speak English fluently, I was the best students in class because I’ve lived in the States for almost 11 years. At first, I thought there was nothing that I could learn from that class but Mr. Gibson was very different from other teachers. Come to think of it, it was a lot like TESOL program that I'm taking. In the first class, he would make students make their own sentences about themselves and go around the class and introduce themselves to each other. After that lesson, I knew it right away that he was not like other teachers that I've had. As matter of fact, I didn't really learn the language but I learned how to teach English and make English interesting. Each classes, we would have activities in which we make our own sentences and try to use them in the class. He also gave us extra points if we volunteer. Our grades were based on participation and attendance. We even had oral tests for mid-term and final. He was an enabler and an involver at the same time.

As I explained above, there are many ways in teaching English. Also, the teaching methods are evolving and changing constantly. I compared my high school ESL class 17years ago with my English class last year. They are totally different. Is I realize that the old traditional method doesn't work these days. Even the teaching methods that I used when I was working as an English teacher are old. Through TESOL program and my own experience, I kind of figured out how to be a good teacher and be effective. Teachers should allow students talk a lot and let them interact with other students using English on their own. I should guide them to the right way and feel empathy for my students. At the same time, I should build a healthy relationship with students.