|  |
| --- |
| **Times Media TC 71** |
| **Teaching Beliefs** |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Jiwon Seo**  **2011-12-27** |

Recent Korea government has made new policy that second language especially English education should more focus on practical way. Current trends of English education have been changed in that way because of the globalization and internationalization. However, this changed policy might affect on private education only. The majority of Public institutions are still using Grammar Translation Method (GTM). It means they are focus on reading, translation, understanding the formula and vocabulary, etc. For that reason, parents are facing higher expenses for their children's private education. This is no different with the last 10 years. This essay will explain my personal experience of both successful and failure English education environment.

First of all, when I was in middle school, my English teacher gave the lots of home work to students such as rewriting the book (partly), memorize the chosen vocabularies and complete the exercise question sheet. After that, we had to take a simple exam but the result was not a simple. Depends on the exam result, we could get reward or punishment such as physical punishment or other extra homework. It makes the student just focus on their home work or memorize the whole book without understanding. This style of education environment could have different consequences for students’ English skills (e.g. great exam score but poor conversation skill). Furthermore, if the students get terrible result, student would completely lost interest in English. It is also dangerous student who wants to be English teacher because it will repeat the same mistake. For that reason, parents are facing higher expenses for their children's private education because of the poor public education system. (Private educations can be supplementary educational institute, tutoring, school holiday English camp and language (English) study abroad.)

On the other hand, when I was in Canada and Australia, they already set up the practical English education system for Non-English countries student. They are more concentrate the practical side such as basic conversation, pronunciation, vocabularies, game and so on. One of my English teachers asked about my previous day almost every morning before start the class. It made me how to use past tense. In addition, he wrote down what I said. It was not only mistake but also compliment things that I used. The class also prepared lots of activities for student. Student definitely enjoyed the activities and they totally forgot the English but still used the English when they were talking. Most of teacher consider about students interest and their needs (of course it is relate to English class). This interaction will get the student attention to each other.

To sum up, our public education institutions are still using the theoretical method. It is not helpful to student English skill that we really need. However, English speaking countries are already using practical education system. (Actually, they do not need practical education environment of English because English is their native language.) It means poor education environment of English will bring the lots of problems such as lost student interest and high expenses for private education. Learning English should be fun and gratifying but if it only means getting a good score or getting into a good university then efforts to improve the quality of English education will continue to be in jeopardy. If we really want to do something to improve the quality of English education then it needs to find a way to make the learning of English more useful and fulfilling for students in and out of the classroom. I strongly believe that the practical education environment absolutely important to improve student English skills.