**Title: My awesome memories of learning a second language.**

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'The excitement of learning separates youth from old age. As long as you are learning you're not old.'- Rosalyn Sussman Yalow US Medical Physicist

I went to Universal American School in Salwa, Kuwait. I was there from February 14th, 1994 through February 5th, 1995. My teacher, Mrs. Timmermann was a very happy, dedicated teacher and at the same time she was a warm-hearted woman outside the classroom. She respected me, encouraged me to come and study with her after our regular classes, and made me feel very special. With her help, my very first language learning experience was successful. Now, I would like to share my memories related to the TESOL 01 module.

**Mrs. Timmermann, both the involver and the enabler type of teacher in Modern Classrooms.**

For the first few weeks, I recall that I couldn’t understand any single word of what teacher asked. So I was likely to lose interest in class, including participation or doing a team works, and furthermore completing the homework. However, she used plenty of different demonstrations, or sometimes lets some students to repeat her before giving out tasks. The given tasks were often done with a pair-work or a group work. While doing the task, she comes around the classroom, and groups by groups she joined them and sees if there were any students having trouble with the work. The teacher looked for the solution and moved on to the next group. This enabled everyone to complete their work easily and effectively.

**Task-Based Learning, Total Physical Response, Communicative Approach.**

The teacher prepared many materials like colorful papers, toys and dolls, worksheets, posters and etc. We were permitted to use every material as long as we ask her individually. This method draw everyone from not to fear to speak and express their needs in English. Sometimes, she let students to compete each other to obtain some limited items, using different activities. For example, I loved the ‘I spy game ‘and ‘Simon says game ‘or sometimes we had to pair up to do the action race game. By doing so, we could focus on the teacher by opening our ears wide to listen to the instructions. All these methods helped me to develop my language skills efficiently, especially speaking and listening.

**I was a goal oriented, and relevancy-oriented learner as well as needed to be shown respect.**

My level of English wasn’t ready enough to catch up with my classmates. However, I hoped to communicate with them so that I can play together and be friends. For that reason, I was very diligent and enthusiastic student to attend extra ESL class to share my thoughts and get some tips from the teacher. With her support I was able to approach to other students without hesitation. One good tip that she gave me was that since I was good at calculation, I might help other friends with their math homework. Whenever this method helped me growing relationship with my friends, I ran to the teacher and told her what happened and thanked her. Mrs. Timmermann loved me sharing my stories with her, and so as she did. She also encouraged me to write a diary, so that I could improve my writing skills.

**Effective Teaching**

One thing that still stays with me is that, Mrs. Timmermann sat together with students to listen to our situations and tried to solve them out together. She never decides anything herself, but led us to the best answer to the problem. Her office door was always opened so we could go and talk to her anytime whenever we need her. She balanced Carl Rogers’ three core values of teaching -Empathy, Authenticity, and Respect well in her own teaching.

**Conclusion**

Thanks to my teacher, English is a language that I could express myself easily and freely. Here in Korea, English is one of the major subjects that everyone needs to learn and studies for a long time, but still hard to relate to their life. It is because we are still using traditional teaching method, the teacher center lesson. That’s why for some students learning a second language could be very stressful. I hope to be a teacher like Mrs. Timmermann. Creating and sharing our interests together rather than just teaching. Understanding, listening to the students and showing respect to them should be the core values for a teacher.