[73/주중T] 임주영(Jennifer)

1St Essay Assignment

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Experience of language learning

‘*A different language is a different vision of life.*’

-Frederico Fellin

My experience of second language was when I attended Atlantic Union College located in nearby Boston, Massachusetts U.S.A. I was there from September 1999 through May 2002. My teacher, Mr. Brown was very kind but sensitive person. Every morning when students enter the classroom, he always calls a student’s name with big smile. Every time I see him, Mr. Brown made me to smile. With his help in or outside of class, I had really great time of learning English.

As what Malcolm Knowles identified 5 characteristics of adult learners, Mr. Brown, who was ESL teacher, always told me to remind self the reason to study English and for what. Also self-respect is very important to keep in mind all the time. Mr. Brown treated students with respect all the time. He always welcomed students who knock his door with warm-hearted. I was a student who knocks his door all the time with assignments and questions from his lecture. He tried to speak to us slowly in class but as soon as he starts give us lecture, too much information comes out in short time.

Mr. Brown was an explorer and also involver because he always well-prepared for the class with activities so students could understand what he tries to teach and what he wants to drag out the information from students which they learned in class. Most of class activities were either small groups or whole class debate. The teacher gives us time and sees what we can come up with relates to a topic. Then the explanation comes up. STT (student talk time) was very high in this class. The reason that STT could have be higher percentage than TTT (teacher talk time) was participation class work compare to universities in Korea.

Because of the number of students in Korea, the class is more likely to be chalk and talk which means professors are lecture-base than group work compare to universities in U.S.A.. Professors spend more time on lecture and writing, and students are too busy writing about the lecture. For myself, I learn things quickly by doing work with others and by experience.

However, for students who start to learn second language, not only for English, it is really important that how an instructor conduct the class and students. The weakness of all teaching skills, classes in Korea need more communications between teachers and students. And put students’ interests more though activities or other things so students could put more efforts what they learn. If an instructor thinks back him/herself as a second language learner and think more, it would be easier to conduct students to follow instructor.