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**When Kimchi Met Pizza**

When I was six years old, Pizza Hut was among the most popular place for the young. This store is a symbol of western world. To speak more precisely, Pizza Hut, itself, represents the power of United Sates or English. Pizza is not just the food but a thing that makes a big contribution to spread American culture and language into “Kimchi world”. Kimchi is a traditional food for Korean but westernized Korea requires people to eat kimchi and pizza together. At the same time, with increase of the importance of English, many people run into books translated in English and study them. I who enjoy eating kimchi also started learning English.

My mother decided to send her 6-year-old daughter, me, to preschool. That kindergarten was special because it had English lessons for young children with native speaker teachers. At first, I felt afraid to speak English and meeting my American teacher. The language sound was strange and I can’t understand well what she said. Moreover, her appearance was different from mine. For example, her skin was more whiter than mine and her nose was more higher compared to mine. She has even blue eyes. Those things led me to make a distance from her. However, as time went by, I opened my mind to her and English due to her exciting class. All class was being taught with playing games. Each game had its own unique characteristics. Some of them used visual materials such as picture card, puzzles and Legos. My best game was “Find the hidden picture game” in English newspaper or textbook. Through that game, I was naturally exposed to English words. Other games were more active by dancing or touching things. Those methods were effective way for students like me who have difficulty adapting new environment by breaking fear and worry. In addition, teacher fully recognizes each student’s distinctive learning styles and preferences. Her consideration reflected on the rule and method on every game we did in the class. In this free environment, I also spoke freely what I want to say regardless whether it was grammatically correct or not. That time, I seemed to take first step in English very successfully.

However, my next step in learning English didn’t get off to a smooth start. My English class in primary or middle school was quite different from my preschool English class. While the latter fits in the modern classrooms, the former type is categorized in traditional learning concepts. Especially, my middle school English teacher was very strict and conservative. She seems to be a person who believes she is always right. Therefore, it is unacceptable for her when other students suggest their own opinion regarding her explanation. In this teacher’s own ego-central environment, I was willing to say correct answer in a way my teacher want her students. Also, gradually, I avoided expressing my view and feeling in English without hesitation. Rather I spend or had to invest my time to reading English text book just sitting in a chair. Come to think of it, my middle school English teacher’s method was simple: read, repeat and remember. I had to memorize about 100 words within two days. It makes me feel irritated and annoyed and think why I have to learn this boring language, English. That period is kinds of dark ages throughout my English learning history.

Relating those two extreme examples, I found my attitude toward English was changed depending on teacher’s behavior or educational belief. What I want to make a point here is the significance of teacher’s role in the class. Learning is not a passive communication. It is an interaction between students and teachers. The way to become an effective teacher is not difficult. Teachers should shows respect to their students and before to do that, they have to know the facts that their young students also have own opinion and sometimes even more creative thoughts. This unexpected innovative thinking leads class in a positive way. Therefore, teachers really listen to his or her students by giving clear communication and feedback. Needless to say, that is the type of teacher that I want to be in the near future.

**[출처]** [어쿠스틱 기타가 멋진 노래 - 일본 뮤지션 모음](http://blog.naver.com/marostyle/30030157692)|**작성자** [마로봉](http://blog.naver.com/marostyle)

 