**Essay: The experience I had in the past learning English**

**Class: 77 TESOL/Weekends**

**Name: Emma JEONG(A Eun JEONG)**

When I look back on my past days to write an essay, I find that I met so many English teachers. Those teachers I met through should be themselves the history of my English study. How hard they had tried to wake me up and make me open the door to the English world! Bust mostly, regardless of their good will, they failed to do that. There were plenty of English teachers, but unfortunately, just a few of them survived in my memory.

Let me start with my Middle school English teachers for I started to study English with the entrance to the Middle school. My first experience with English class was read and write, read and write(“copy the textbook” might be more exact word for “write”). That is all I can remember. The English teachers I met in middle school always asked me to read and write textbooks several times as a homework, sometimes to memorize bunch of words. No games, no debates, no group activities. I found English something very boring and difficult. Now I can see why I felt like that. Those teachers were typical “explainers” and I was an “auditory” type of sudent. Traditional classrooms couldn’t made me interested in English.

What made me find out my interest in English, or maybe in language itself, was the 6 months I spent in Australia after taking a year off from my university. At Edith Cowan University, in Perth, Australia, I met the teacher “Lynn”, who has black eyes and hair, Asian blood. As a person whose mother tongue was one of Asian languages, Lynn herself was an evidence to show that anyone can speak perfect English if he meets a right teacher and does his best even if he is not a native English speaker. From the first class she held, she made a comfortable and free mood so I found myself eager to talk and listen to others. In her class, we played games, role plays, did lots of debates on a variety of topics, had teaching experiences. I found English something very fun and my speaking skill advanced in a flash, literally!! Now I can see that Lynn was a very effective “involver” and “enabler” and her class was definitely a modern classroom. Having participated in her class for 6 months, I became a person who does not hesitate to talk to English speaker and when I came back to Korea, I succeeded to find a job thanks to this advance in speaking skill. And 16 years later, still, I am making a living through my English skill(I am an English Korean translator now).

Through my own experience, I realized that how much somebody called “TEACHER” can affect his students’ lives. As for me, if there weren’t Lynn, I would not find English fun and would not be a person who just loves to study and speak English. Looking back on my 24 years studying English as a second language, I got to know what kind of teacher I should become like. I will not be a teacher who just stands in front of students and always “explains” and “lectures”. I will be an “involver” and “enabler” who is always well prepared and organized, listen to students and shows respect to sudents from the bottom of my heart.