**Studying Abroad**

Lina Eunkyung Lim

(799)

My name is Lina Eunkyung Lim and I have some experience of studying abroad both in France and the US.

In 2006, I went to Boulogne-Sur-Mer in France for a month to study French because my major was French & French Literature in the university.

Back then, I wasn’t that kind of students who are goal-oriented or are relevancy oriented. My French was really poor especially when it comes to speaking. I was just really excited about one month backpacking plan in Europe after the French course and wasn’t really interested in learning French.

So as you could probably predict I got into beginner’s class. Even though it was beginner’s class, it was very difficult for me. The teachers only spoke in French and they didn’t allow us to use any English in the class.

The teachers used various types of teaching methodologies in the class like Direct Method (DM), Audio-Lingual Method (ALM) and Communicative Language Teaching (CLT).

One of the teachers was very enthusiastic and also passionate. She was involver most of the time. For an example of DM, she used many visual aids like pictures of fruits, real pencils etc. She showed us those visual aids and asked us about what they are and what their colors are. But that was not just that. She would make some funny faces, sound and gestures to please us and to make us have fun learning. She used to focus on Phonology, Lexis and Grammar most of the time. I think she also did some parentheses to us. The atmosphere was very comfortable and it was kind of modern style classroom and when I finally got the motivation for learning French to make some French friends it became really interesting and fun to use French so her teaching was quite effective for me.

However when the Activity Time at nights, all different levels of students were gathered together in the same place and the teachers did CLT by doing some activities and games. I remember one night the teachers decided to do a role play, and I prayed inside not to be picked for any role because I knew I couldn’t say a word out loud in front of all those students. Not to mention some terrible anxiety I felt from head to toe and more importantly I couldn’t even understand the situation what we were about to play. So that wasn’t very effective teaching style for me.

In 2008, I went to Santa Barbara, California in the US for a year to study English. In this period, I had quite different experience comparing to the experience I have had in France. At that time, I first got into upper intermediate class. But I was only good at reading and listening and wasn’t really good at speaking or writing as most of Koreans. I couldn’t even defend myself when my homestay mother blamed me for throwing away a sandwich she had made for dinner even though it was too burned so that you can’t actually eat. This happened on very first day when I just arrived in the US so I got a seriously good motivation to learn how to speak.

My upper intermediate class teacher was an explainer and all he did was just lecturing. Even though I had a good motivation and was a goal-oriented student, I couldn’t help myself falling asleep during the class besides my speaking ability didn’t seem to get improved. So I improved my speaking ability by hanging out with my housemates from all over the world and actually it worked really well as their input was, like, 1 or 2 levels higher than me.

So when I finally got into the highest level of class, the teacher was more like enabler and did lots of CLT. She preferred interpersonal intelligence so she used to give us some subjects or topics and let us do discusses or debates about them. We talked freely about our different cultures, social life styles and perspectives about many things in our lives. She respected every single student and our cultures & backgrounds as well. So that teaching style suited me so well.

There are various different types of teaching and also different levels of students with different abilities and personalities. From my experience of learning a second language, I came to a conclusion that you need to teach students with various teaching styles adapted for their levels and tendencies with a variety of methodologies, teaching techniques and intelligences. Using only one methodology is not an effective teaching. First, you need to find out about the students’ types and preferences for learning and also you need to consider their ages then mix all of the methodologies and techniques to teach your students properly.