My successful English learning experience in England

Natalie(Eun Ju KIM)

I started learning English when I was 5years old at the kindergarten but even though I started learning English earlier I had a difficulty in make sentences and I do not have any confidence in speaking English until 18years old before I go to Australia for University. My middle/high school’s English teacher style was traditional one that most lessons are comprised of lecture like reading and audio-visual. They focused on four basic language skills especially reading and listening for entering the University Not for the Daily Life. However, when I turned 18, I spent a half of year at the UK for learning English. UK teacher’s type was modern style and he was an involver teacher.

First of all, my teacher focused on speaking.

I and other students are already had a basic knowledge of English grammar and our goal was same which is getting an over 6.5 score in IELTS test and improving English. I took the intermediate class. The class was consisted of me, 2 Japanese, and 3 Italians. Some of us were not familiar with UK’s pronunciation and not good at speaking English or getting hard time to make full sentences. So teacher focused on five basic language systems especially phonology, function and discourse at the first time. After then, he taught us using CLT (Communicative Language Teaching) method. Especially the CLT method improves my English speaking and inspired confidence to me for speaking English which I could not get in Korean English class before.

Second, my teacher’s type was modern and involver teaching style.

Comparing with Korean teacher, Korean teaching type was quite traditional way like just lecture and that way was not suitable for me. However, UK teacher style was totally different style with Korean. UK teacher likes group works so that we can speak English with exact pronounce and grammatical construction. Through those group activities, I improved my speaking skill. In addition, I have learned various English expresses what I could not get in normal classes.

I have got a Musical and visual strengths so that my teacher suggested to me singing along pop song and watching UK drama or American drama. And it helped me a lot that to remember the sentences and the way to express myself in English.

Third, Empathetic, Authentic, Respectful

I was the only Korean in the classroom and that made lose my confidence not in English but also making friends. So I could not concentrate on the class at the first week. However, in the second week class, my teacher introduced about the Korea to classmates after than they were interested to me and my country than before and it was the chance to be friends with them. Teacher studied about Korea himself for me and trying to give me confidence. He showed us respect and considered of each one of us.

Afterward, I became a university student I realized if I could not meet UK teacher, I could not enter an Australia university and I could not think about Tesol course.

As an English teacher after finishing TESOL, what I want to do is being an involver teacher so that make a modern classroom which can make student enjoy learning English and I will show respect to students and listen them carefully as my English teacher did to me.