**<The importance of teacher’s role in language learning environment>**

Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

-Malcolm S .Forbes

**[출처]** [교육에 관한 영어격언, 인용구 Education Quotes, Sayings about Education](http://blog.naver.com/dnjswn104/100165976912)|**작성자** [Mongster](http://blog.naver.com/dnjswn104)

Before I describe about my personal experiences of second language environment, I think I need to enumerate the specific period of learning time. I started to learn English when I was 10 and studied whole year, then started again from middle school to high school. After graduated high school, I haven’t got many chances to learn it. These 7 years of experiences could separate into ‘success time’ or ‘failure time’, because the environment was totally different. I will put these names on each period with some analysis and conclusions, based on how much I’d developed the language.

When I was a child, there weren’t many institutions which could learn English. That’s why my parents were happily decided to sent me to place where I could learn it from native speakers, although there were so few people who want to start to learn second language so early. Anyways, my first official English teacher was a Canadian guy named Bill. I started to learn the alphabet, greetings and moved to make some casual conversations I might use with foreigners. As you know, children are usually too impatient and immature to focus the whole class, so he started to use some materials to make us concentrate – He invented his own game to draw our attention. And he used to make a group to let us do some activities or decide about something of our own. He was a good listener and also a patient teacher, and everyone could suggest any kind of opinions in an atmosphere of freedom. It was a very progressive and ‘modern classroom’ type, especially when it compared with Korean schools.

One of the best thing about him was he connected the culture with the language, which was very helpful to understand and memorize English. In my opinion, learning a language involves learning and understanding the culture. If someone has a lot of attachment about certain culture, the language skill eventually grows rapidly because of that.

This ‘successful time’ made me wanted to study more about English, and I still remember the accurate pronunciation and words learning from him although I was very little.

Unfortunately after I entered the middle school, the situation was changed. I was in a public school, and it was full of authoritative, overmastering and boring teachers who didn’t care about their students. They didn’t even try to change the curriculum or method to teach students effectively. For instance, their routine job was make the students read some article, pick a right answer on the textbook, and memorize vocabularies and grammars. And they didn’t consider about the differences among the students, like their language level, personality, health condition or gender. So it brought some fatal results, I lost my desire to learn English and studying time was just so painful.

I expected something might change in high school but it was similar. They yelled a lot, hit a lot to make us concentrate, they were just ‘explainer’ with boring lectures. To sum up, at that time most of teachers insisted to maintain the ‘traditional classroom’ type, and the student’s couldn’t raise objections to them. From the days of ‘failure time’ I realized teacher’s quality and ability is much more important than the language itself. No matter what the language is difficult, the students could learn it pleasantly with effect if the teachers do their best.

In conclusion, the most important factor about learning environment is teacher’s quality. I’m not talking about the teacher should have a brilliant career, fancy appearance or many years of teaching experiences. Of course experienced teacher has more practical information and Know-how than inexperienced one, the new teacher has lots of passion and potentials to be a great leader in close future.

Although some abilities required differently between the teacher of young learners and the teacher of adults, all teachers have to be ‘wonderful audience’ to their students. From my personal experiences, the biggest distinction between the best teacher and the worst teacher was their attitude during the class. School teachers usually ignoring our opinion or angry at us based on their prejudice (students can’t talk back to their teachers). But, the great teacher like bill always tried to listen my opinion. So as a prep teacher, I will try to focus some internal aspects of my students – their thinking, feelings and dreams - ultimately I will get some trusts from them. Moreover I will be flexible enough to change my teaching style or learning materials, to be a successful teacher.

( 750 words exclude the title and quote)