**Teachers have a key to develop the student’s potential.** Cathy (83thWK TESOL)

*The mediocre teacher tells.*

*The good teacher explains.*

*The superior teacher demonstrates.*

*The greatest teacher inspires.*

William Arthur Ward (1921-1994, American writer) said as above. The teacher is a very important means of education because he might change someone’s life and future. What type of teacher is the best to students for learning languages? What were my former teachers like? Through my experience that I learned English for the first time, let’s find out the answer.

I remember my first English teacher who encouraged me. I was 10 years old, and I didn’t even know the Alphabet letters. There was not an English subject in the public elementary school at the time, so I studied English with a private teacher. She was the teacher of the enabler type based on 3 teacher’s type. By Adrian Underhill, there are 3 types of teachers. First teacher’s type is the explainer who lecturing as a way of conveying information to the students. The second type is the involver who has techniques to involve students actively. The last one is the enabler who makes students to learn language for themselves. She always prepared various kinds of English materials, interesting story book and CD, and skillful teaching techniques and she always guided me to learn English myself. I was happy to play with English, learn English, and be with my teacher. Especially, I looked forward making English story with some pictures by myself every end of the week. After preparing the story all week, I had to tell it to my teacher. Whenever I told it to the teacher, I felt like an English teacher. She didn’t correct my mistakes right away. Thanks for her patience and teaching beliefs, I could be confident when I speak English. I had enjoyed English for 3 years with her and I could accept English as an interesting language.

Another experience of learning English in ‘Yang-dong’ middle school was terrible. The teacher was totally an explainer type. She focused on learning grammar, translating into Korean, and answering the questions. No material was in the class. If done with wit or enthusiasm, her lesson could be interesting. However I had to make notes on the board, just listen to her lesson which was why I couldn’t be involved in her class. English was not any more language, but just a subject for study.

Teachers need to have teaching techniques based on encouraging students. According to my experience that I remember with most pleasure, teachers have a key to make their class meaningful or only one-way communicative. They have to be guide, counselor, and resource of information when needed.

As more and more children and adults learn second languages, teaching skills also are developing more effectively. However, I think the teacher is the most important factor to learn language in education. *A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring pupils with a desire to learn is hammering a cold iron*. (Horace Mann 1796-1859, American educator) If the teacher can not make the students inspired, he is just a speaker not a guide for learning language. I wish I could not be the teacher who hammers a cold iron.