**Essay #01**

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Question: Describing a second language environment that you have experienced. Was it a success or a failure as a language learning experience? Why? Relate your personal belief to concepts learned in the TESOL 01 module: characteristics of adult learners, traditional vs. modern classrooms, teacher types and effective learning.

 I have been taught English in various learning environment including schools, academies and informal study groups, by different instructors since a childhood. Thanks to many years of leaning I was quite good at reading and listening but poor at grammar. Grammar had been the most unconfident part until I met this teacher while at university.

Frankly speaking, my first impression was not really good. He seemed to be a kind of shy, introspective person and humorless. I thought I had made a bad choice but I could not help keeping on that course because of my schedule. Yet, my initial impression proved wrong as time went by.

First of all, at the beginning of the course, he surveyed the purpose of studying English to students and asked us to write down what we had done and what we would do in the future. Most of students decided to study more on grammar in order to write and speak more systematically without errors. Thus, he encouraged us to improve the language skill accordingly by relating course material to our own goals. He really recognized the students as mature adult learners who are goal oriented and treated us with sincere respect.

He was an involver type instructor who used modern teaching methodology by applying most effective technique for learner’s retention. He divided entire class into several small groups and asked us to research on certain grammar topic on our own. Then, what we needed to do was to explain about certain grammar theory to the rest of classmates in front of the class. On top of basic grammar theory, we should include how it could be applied in various verbal or written contexts with many illustrations. After the presentation, he underlined the important things to memorize and added supplementary explanation when needed. I believe that he was a real involver type teacher who tried to actively involve students and also supplied additional guidance for better understanding.

Above all things, the most effective methodology in his class was giving a lecture to others. Teaching others indicates highest retention rate, 90% among different teaching techniques. I am sure that he knew what would be most efficient to learners through hands-on teaching experience for many years. At that time, my group gave a lecture on auxiliary verbs. According to the instructor’s guidance, we explained not only overall concepts but also application in different cases. It was quite confusing grammar until that day. What I had taught to the classmates is, however, still retained even though a few years have passed.

I feel honored to have been taught by a skillful teacher. Now I could realize what made him such a great teacher as I am learning teaching skills these days. He utilized the effective technique and acted as a facilitator based on the understanding of characteristics of adult learners. I also would like to be a teacher like him, who knows what is best and involve students to the lecture.