2013/06/14

TESOL Essay

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I have studied English for many years. When I first started to learn English learned through stories, and songs. I liked it because I could learn English naturally. Studying English became boring, as soon as I started to learn grammar. The reason is that grammar teacher was an explainer. My English decreased. Most of English teachers I met were traditional teachers. Listening to a lecture without activities is not effective for me. Even though I listen carefully to the teacher, If I don’t review the content I learned, I can forget the content easily.

Later, when I was a sophomore in high school, I decided to go to an alternative school called Jiguchon International School. Many students were better at English than I was. I didn’t even know simple vocabulary. The principal of its school introduced me the principal of the Soeul Language Institute, and I started to study with him. He made me memorize 600 words a week from the first lesson. He never explained to me about the content and just made me to memorize vocabulary. Of course, I failed the tests; memorizing too many words was impossible for me. He used the carrot and stick method very well. For example, when I became lazy, he gave me the stick. When I failed the tests, because I did my best, he gave me the carrot. He knew that I did my best even though nobody told him. In the end, I could memorize TOEFL 1800 words and SAT 3600 words, and I passed the final test. (Unfortunately, I cannot remember many of the m anymore.)

I think I really did my best and studied hard at the time. My ability to memorize got better. The principal made me and the other students study hard. I think he was a great teacher.

 After I memorized the words, I started to study for the TOEFL test, but I could not understand the whole text despite having memorized many words. I went to Hackers Academy. During the first class, the listening teacher used the computer and we listened to dialogues and lectures. TOEFL Listening was too fast for me. Frankly I didn’t like studying listening. The listening teacher helped us understand the sentences by explaining the meaning and making us repeat after her. When I heard the dialogues for the first time, I could not catch the meaning, but I could understand after repeating and memorizing the sentences. Listening class was enjoyable for students. For the second class, reading teacher asked a lot of questions. She checked to see if the students understood the contents by asking more questions. Some students were afraid that she might ask them questions. Still, although there were many students, we could learn very well.

 Now, I teach listening elementary students everyday and sometimes activity class to. As I always feel, children dislike boring and angry teachers. To be honest, I think my classroom is a traditional classroom. Of course they like modern classroom, but I don’t know what to do to change my teaching. I usually play Bingo and Uno when I have to teach the activity class. I always feel bad for my students. Last week, I had to teach the activity class, but I was not worried because I learned about using methods from Jayme. I made Word Finder papers and prepared a ball. Students combined and made words they knew, and they presented words they found. Also they could learn about prepositions with this activity. The students threw the ball on, under, or over the desk, then, they made a simple sentence using ‘on, under, or over’. The students really enjoyed the game and participated eagerly. TTT is low, STT is high. My classroom is traditional because I don’t know what to do. When young are children too loud, I always yell at them to be quiet and to sit down. I ask them if they understand after I taught them. I feel like I have prevented their learning. I want to change my traditional classroom to a modern classroom by taking this TESOL class.