My Experience on Second Language

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TESOL W/K 89th

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I have studied English from my middle school when I encountered first time that second language to my career in public services which I am working now. I have spent a great deal of time and effort as well as cost on English to conquer it in the sacrifices of opportunity cost derived from those things nevertheless would have been gotten. Despite all my efforts to achieve it, the outcomes proved miserable because I didn’t yet fit my appropriate learning method as well as studying English by fits and starts. Here is the way my English learning experience goes.

Looking back to my experience of English learning, I remember clearly the intensive training course I attended at ”Hanguk University of Foreign Language” during working life. My company gave me an opportunity to improve business English, studying there for six months. Before we start our first class, we were supposed to take a level test to assess how much our English ability would increase after finishing this course. My grades from the initial test were above the average. This course had dealt with intensive languages skills : speaking, listening and writing. We got three teachers consisting of one native speaker and two Korean Americans.

One native speaker was responsible for speaking, while the other two Korean Americans were in charge of listening and writing respectively. The teacher taking speaking class distributed us an article or paper we would discuss in advance. He tried to find out what we know and what we don’t know, eliciting our response to his various questions. His remark was aimed at involving us actively and facilitating the communication process. Unfortunately he broke his ankle while exercising only fail to continue his lecture. To borrow the term learned in the TESOL, among three types of teachers – explainer, involver and enabler, he was closer to enabler.

On the other hand, the teacher handling listening class brought a tape recorder to classroom and played music or dialogue to us by segmenting the whole contents. She allowed us to listen just one by one by pausing to play and forced us to say what you are told. She corrected our mistakes on the spot and revised our inaudible words in listening a song or dialogue she played from a tape recorder. She looked like familiar with teaching methodology. However, she had hardly used a board to write a word or key note, which made me confused to understand what it was going on. As a result of it, the inaudible words remained to be inaudible until the end of the class, which irritated me and distracted my concentration.

Finally, the teacher assuming writing class brought a text concerning on how to write an essay or an exquisite book on writing and used to explain a main idea of whole sentences after reading. She was struggling to help us comprehend what the author implies by just talking, preventing us from developing writing skills. She didn’t even assign a homework on writing for our own sake. I respected her passion because she devoted herself to teaching English and was kind-mannered. She seemed to have a task of passing over her knowledge to us by lecture and explanation. TTT(Teacher Talking Time) was up in her class in terms of language techniques and she was closer to explainer among teacher types

In conclusion, my experience on learning English conducted on the job training left me with a sense of futility. When I got a final test after finishing this course, my grades were lower than ones I got from a intial test. Then I was very vexed to find all my efforts were in vain. But learning English is too precious to give up now since English is worth it in many ways. I has kept my beliefs that a fluent English will compensate for my lost opportunity cost in the future, seeking for a lifelong job. I have to keep on going to journey for the Quest to English during the rest of my life. Hopefully, Something occurred to me that while I am writing an essay twice now, writing is a good way not only to think logically and systematically your idea but also to improve your English vocabulary quickly.