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TESOL ESSAY1

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I was in America for two and half years for college. It was in college that I started to study English earnestly. Honestly, I have never heard the terms *teaching methods, modes of learning, SLA, etc.* While I was learning various types of teaching methods in TESOL, I immediately realized what the problem with my teaching was. I recognized why I kept failing to make my students focus in class. There are easy solutions to fix the problems in my classroom. The first thing that I realized while I was taking TESOL class was that there are three different types of modes of learning, visual, auditory, and tactile. For example, I tried to make my tactile students sit for a long time and forced them to produce a lot of information. As a result, my students did not follow my directions and I felt desperate. Second, knowing the modes of learning also helped me understand who I am. I already knew that I cannot focus on something if there is too \much noise. After I found my own mode of learning, I understood what kind of teacher I am that if I understand my students, I would have less problems in my classroom.

Even though I did not know much about teaching methods at the time, I successfully learned English during my time in America. I believe this is because America’s inductive teaching style fits me. Most of the teachers in Korea have a deductive teaching style. I think giving the right answers to students might make every student get good grades, but it is very hard to make creative students. It is not true that I liked the whole process of learning English. I had a hard time with my ENGL 101 class because of the difference in the teaching and learning styles between the professor and me. My professor used the grammar-translation method. I needed to spend a lot of time reading and translating passages into our own words. We needed to take many tests and write many essays as well. Even though our target language was English, we only talked when we had questions. She gave us homework and expected us to do more than we could actually do. Since I am a supporter of the audio-lingual method, the grammar-translation method of teaching was torture for me because we had no opportunity to develop our speaking and listening skills.

Now, I am teaching elementary students, and I use the audio-lingual method for my class. For example, I make a chant using Bible verses, and I sing the chant with my students every day. At the end of the week, most students remember every single vocabulary word and their meanings as well, even though they might not have tried as hard as they could have. Although I only mentioned on type of teaching style above, I will try to incorporate as many other types of teaching styles as I can to help my students to focus and to enjoy my class more.