TM 89 Essay 1

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Almost all people have tried to study English at least once. I also studied English for a long time until high school. When I graduated the high school, I felt I did not need to study English anymore. Yes, English was not my favorite subject. After a few years I went to travel with my friends and I met a lot of people. They wanted to talk with me, also I wanted to be close with them, but we could not be friends because of my shyness and speaking skill. When I came back to my life, always I decided to study English for next trip. Yet I never succeeded. One day I went to Hawaii with my parents and met a woman who can speak well. She lived there for two years, so she wanted to introduce to us a lot of good places. My parents and I spent time with her. But I was not comfortable because I could not understand her well and talk. When I came back, I started to learn English with a private teacher once a week. After three months, I felt it is not enough. I was thirsty to talk. That is why I went to New York City and stayed there for five years.

When I learned English at language school, I was super shy. I could not speak at all in the class. One day I met a new teacher who was Cory. He made all students talk and then he made corrections if students had mistakes. His second job was a comedian at stand-up comedy club, so he was so funny in class. But it did not work for me. When I had mistakes, he always made corrections in funny ways because he thought if he did it, I would remember and then I never have the same mistakes again. However it made me feel embarrassed. It was not his fault. It was my fault. I was not ready to study English. I really wanted to speak. But I did not want to try at all. So I was depressed many times. Finally I had to change my class. At that time, I did not realize what was wrong. I just blamed that my class was not for me.

In my new class, I met a teacher who was Juliana and she is still my good friend. When I met her, I was almost the same as before. But she knew my personality, so she always waited for me. She did not say anything, before I finished talking, but she looked at me with a smile. She gave a lot of time when we talked about something. I really wanted to talk with people, but I did not know a lot of words. So always I needed time to search words and figure out words. She already understood me, then never pushed me and gave me time.

One day, I talked with her about my feeling when I speak English with people. I felt uncomfortable when I talked with people I worried about my English skills, and my pronunciation. She gave a really good advice that made me change. She said, "Chuwon, which one is good for you? Which one is better? If you talk with people it would be just small talk with perfect sentences, or you talk about everything, but your sentences are not perfect, yet just enough? Do not worry, Chuwon. You can do it. Your pronunciation is fine. I can understand what you are saying. Just please believe in yourself. You lived abroad alone. You should be proud of yourself because I am so proud of you and I am so happy because you are my student, good friend and I am your teacher. If you do not believe yourself and you are not proud of yourself, you would not see yourself that I can see."

It leads me in a positive way because after that I totally changed. I started to talk a lot. I did not care about my English skills. I was just happy to talk and to meet new people. I became a person who likes to learn English. If I did not meet her, what would have happened to me? I might speak English, but I might feel English was still difficult.

After that she became my role model of teacher. I learn about what is a good teacher from her. A good teacher should have respect, and listen carefully and then should wait for their student when they are ready to talk. Also a good teacher should not judge their students. People have different personalities. It cannot say what is good or bad in learning. So if I teach English, I want to be a teacher like a Juliana.

That is why I really like to learn in our TESOL class. It is a really good opportunity for me. This time I will prepare a lot of teaching skills. And I will find what my real style of teaching is. During TESOL, our class is really useful to me. I did not know about teaching methodology. Now I cannot say I know about everything, but I will go forward step by step.