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| TESOL #90 wd |
| What is Expected for ESL Teacher |
| Second Language Acquisition Assignment |
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***“Motivation is what gets you started, habit is what keeps you going”***

***(Jim Rohn, entrepreneur and author)***

Unlike individual mother tongues, we need a strong motivation to be a fluent as a 2nd language user because it is not naturally acquired but learned by great efforts. Back in my childhood, I wasn’t interested in English because it was not even a mandatory subject in elementary school and also nothing excited my passion for learning it. One day, a book salesman visited and made mom to buy an expensive junior English collection named ‘Hello-world’ and I had to visit the world everyday by force, however, I finally found myself having fun doing activities following the audio-visual English book which gave me a strong motivation to improve my English as an advanced level. In this essay, I have a few suggestions for teaching foreign language efficiently as a successful second language learner.

First, teachers should understand students. Every student have different ages, background and experiences and the lecture can use need analysis to tweak teaching styles. It means if teachers don’t get to know those students, the class can’t attain any goals. When I was in high school my biggest concern was getting the highest score to pass the university entrance exam and I got a small group English lesson which continued only for a month. The tutor was very brilliant who was a senior student majoring in English at the university and he used his own English linguistic book written in English for the intermediate class. He was kind enough to share his knowledge from college but he didn’t consider our level and we had to spend lots of time to use the thick Oxford English-English dictionary. Also, we were not interested in how to write a good essay because the exam was not related to writing skills so we couldn’t concentrate on his writing lessons properly. Teacher must understand students’ level of the language and also have to consider what they want to gain for the class.

Secondly, teachers should be flexible to adopt a modern style of teaching to the classroom. Though the teacher is educated from decades ago, teaching only old-fashioned style will bring negative outputs. Reminding my experience, English class about 10-20 years ago, more than 50 students were sitting in one room, watching, listening and writing what the teacher says in front of the blackboard. There was no discussion but silence, studying grammar and lexis by dictionary. Teachers didn’t teach in English, and students had small chances to listen to native speaker’s pronunciation, not to speak with others and rarely found someone who can fix their written language. Because language is alive and has various usage, second language learners have to get many chance to speak with their own voice. When I was a freshman into university, I was not confident to express my opinion in English. After took a practical English class and the professor was such an involver and I had to prepare presentations in English, we had discussion time every day with a small group work and had so much fun playing a role activity. The class was exact the modern style and I finally could speak out what is on my mind.

Lastly, teacher should respect students. Studying language is a far way journey and it takes years to learn. When speaking with mother tongue, all students are very natural but when learn foreign language, people feel nervous to make mistakes or worry to not understand sentences. That’s not because students are not intelligent but not used to use the second language. If teacher is not patient to listen student’s slow and wrong expressions, the leaner will lose interest and can’t keep studying after all. In 2004, I shared a flat with a professional interpretor for a year. I was given my private free lessons from the teacher and she always gave me feedback completely understood what I said even if I used wrong word. I sometimes used some expressions like ‘chubby’ or ‘hunks’ and she encouraging compliments telling me that I had a good skills to use various vocabularies. During the first month, I couldn’t understand her more than half-percent, but after a year I became very confident to mimic her accent and intonations. I can definitely say that my British teacher didn’t make me embarrassed to speak English and it is a key to students who want to learn foreign language.

More than 10 years studying in English, I met some good teachers who taught very efficiently in a short period and some were too old-fashioned and didn’t influence me to learn language. The most important qualification for the language teacher is not their perfect native level of English but exact teaching style for each student and help them to learn constantly.