TESOL 01: Second Language Acquisition Assignment

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764 Words used

Touch the Future From the Heart

‘I touch the future, I teach’ quoted by Christa McAuliffe.

Children are the future and I became a teacher as I like children and want to help them to grow. I question myself often. “How can I become a better teacher?”, “Can I become like one of the teachers I really liked and followed?” Those questions make me feel nervous and questionable about my present-self as a teacher, however, I will try to touch the future generation, that’s for sure.

When I was young, my family was not in an English speaking atmosphere, so my parents tried to support me to learn English a lot. My father usually brought Disney movies home and had a movie night together quite often. I really enjoyed that time and that natural ‘Audio-visual’ method of learning was really helpful to develop my listening, broadening my receptive skills and interest in English.

As we discussed about Malcolm Knowles theory: Five key characteristics of Adult learners, one of the points is that ‘Adults are autonomous and self-directed’. I agree with this idea and I genuinely believe I demonstrated this at age 12. I was ‘self-directed’ when I listened to American pop-music and study for it. Actually, I was affected by my friend who had older teenage sisters, and they exposed me to pop culture a lot. Anyway, I loved to listen and study English pop-songs independently and according to my own motivation.

When I become a middle and high school student, I went to lots of academies in which were mostly high TTT classes, as reflected in a traditional class room settings. The ‘jug and mug’ teaching style conflicted the rapport between teachers. Corporal punishment was allowed toward aggressive students and that indeed let a restricted relationship. Education for the Exam caused lots of stresses for both teacher and students.

I also had an experience for teaching middle and high school students at a private academy. Even though I disliked the way of teaching and atmosphere in my time, it was hard to find another way of teaching for students with limited boundary of textbook and ‘the Entrance exam’. Knowles said adults are goal-oriented and goals should be made attainable but there are too many things to memorize and study for students. There was no time to study only for the enjoyment of English. The goal seemed too far away for them and many students lacked confidence. Learning and teaching English in Korea is having tests for the Test. As a result, I was ‘the explainer’ and what I did was ‘Chalk and talk’ most of the time besides having quizzes to catch up the curriculum of the school. I think many of my middle and high school teachers including me were not good teachers from a student’s point of view because although they knew about subject matter well, they did not help students personally as in neither involving nor challenging them.

I went to a college from 2005 and graduated in 2010 and most of the classes were more modernized than high school. There were many lecture style professors, however, lots of classes were interactive between teachers and students, and instructors used various teaching materials like high-tech machine and beam projector which helped students become actively involved our discussion class especially, there was a professor a ‘guide’ or a ‘counselor’ or a ‘resource of information when needed’. She was ‘The enabler’. I could develop my productive speaking and writing skills through class and individual investigation assignments. So in my experience, college discussion class was much more an integrated-skills approach.

‘The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book’ quoted by Author Unknown

Teacher is a precious job because it is about helping people to have a broaden worldview. As Carl Rogers mentioned about ‘three characteristics to be a teacher’, I desire becoming a teacher who have empathy, be authentic and respect students. I want to be enthusiastic to provide them a comfortable atmosphere by my humorous personality which helps students to reduce the stress. Also, I wish for having a sense to catch each one’s strength and help them build on it, like one of my favorite teachers did, let talented student sing in front of the class and cheer her up and make her feel successful and rewarded. I expect to have qualities of effective teacher by this TESOL course and I have a dream about becoming a teacher who touches student’s heart and fills their needs.