TESOL 01 Language & Learning Dana Lee

Second Language Acquisition Assignment

I have been studying English for 15 years. But when I was elementary, middle and high school student, I was not interested in studying English. Every classroom was absolutely traditional classroom. Teacher was boss in the classroom. Literally speaking, it was teacher-centered and mug and jug. Teacher taught us how to read and listen to English, grammar, vocabulary, and so on. They were just explainer! They knew their subject matter ‘English’ very well, but didn’t have teaching methodology. I and other friends just took a note, memorized vocabulary, and so on. We were generally receptive. I think, at that time, I studied English because I had to. It was very compulsory environment. So, studying English was not funny and difficult for me.

After entering the university, I took a class “English conversation”. That was required for graduation. But, that situation was totally different because our professor was the ‘involver’ type. He was trying to involve the students actively and put a great deal of effort into finding appropriate and interesting activities. Naturally, classroom was ‘modern’ classroom type. Professor was not only teacher but also manager in the classroom. There were variety of activities and group work, too. Unlike old classroom, that was student-centered so, student’s participation was very high level. That professor was from United states. I heard that in America, every class room is modern type so, that professor taught us like modern type. There is a saying “Teachers tend to create a classroom atmosphere that resembles the atmosphere they experienced as students.”. I think this is 100% true. Anyway, after taking that class, I started to have an interested in studying English. And, I studied English very hard, because I wanted to give my English skills to other students who are not interested in English yet!. I think this is one of the characteristics of adult learners. I had a goal! Adult learners are Goal-oriented. I studied English with a goal that is becoming English teacher.

When I was sophomore, I taught English at Chang-chun middle school. Students had very low English score. I realized that they were just not interested in studying English so, I decided to give them interesting for studying English. I didn’t use the book and chalk. I used many method such as playing in the playground, game and so on. In fact, students were not interested in games or activities at first, but after participating the class, they started to interested in it. At first, they were very receptive students but as time went by, they changed from receptive to productive students. If my teacher were involver type when I was in elementary school, my English level may be higher than now. Like this, the teacher’s role in the classroom is very important.

After taking all of the TESOL courses, I will apply for English teacher. There are three types of teacher but I think involver is the best one. If I’ll be an English teacher, I try to be an involver type of teacher.