Second Language Acquisition

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I started learning English since I was in middle school. I can say it was late time if I compare to now. I remember that I was interested about learning second language from my first English class. However the English class just turned difficult and boring to me. What happened to the class?

I learned EAR in our Tesol class. When I heard these things, it made me remind my old classrooms and teachers. School in Korea, we usually heard that students have to be quiet in class and school for the other studying classmates and of course English class as well. It was kind of right attitude. And in classroom was very strict about the principles. If we did not follow principles, we could get the cane for the punishment from teachers sometimes. Teacher was enough to make me scared. It did not create a positive learning atmosphere. This atmosphere makes students more passive. Teachers should try to have three qualities respect, empathy and authenticity. These three core teacher characteristics help to create an effective learning environment. I have an unforgettable memory from one of my teachers who mocked me in front of my classmates during English class because I could not write down some easy word. I was so embarrassed when the teacher was teasing me. After that happening, I always tried to avoid the teacher and had some kind of fear and I still have it. I changed little bit like a reserved person in the class and the class was just like a nightmare to me. Teachers should consider that relationships in the classroom have a big effect on students rather than methodology how to teach.

However teaching types and methods are also important. In old classroom, commonly teacher did reading sentence and translating it for us then explained grammar and student just followed it thought their eyes or noted it themselves. Teacher was kind of explainer who relies on explaining and lecturing in traditional classroom. There was less interaction between teacher and students. Sometimes student repeated some sentence after teacher. That was all what I speak in my old English class. It was enough teaching methods to reduce my interesting about learning English. And I focused on simple reading in my self-studying time in order to get high score when I took exam. The reason why I studied English was only for examinations. The thing is the exam questions were usually multiple choices or answering simple world. I memorized a lot of words blindly which I even could not use in speaking. And I never wrote diaries or essays in English when I went to school because writing did not include an exam. Only practices of various multiple choice questions were worked. It was going to be my biggest problem when I was in abroad after graduating. I could not write even a simple email in appropriate way at the first time in my work. So I realized that my old classroom emphasized only receptive skills among the language skills. Students should have opportunities to practice their language skills in classroom. The learning second language environment should be balanced language systems and skills. Second language is substantial that is why we struggle to have second language skills but the purpose of language learning have to be changed first from purpose an examination to communicative purpose. And teacher should know which is effective methodology and learning environment.

In our life, we meet different types of teachers. What kind of teacher is good for students? How about a teacher who has insight what students want to do and has flexibility to change their types for students willingly.