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**Essay Due: 5th Dec 2013**

**Words count: 745**

**Title: When I was a beginner…**

“You don’t need fancy highbrow traditions or money to really learn. You just need people with the desire to better themselves” -Adam Cooper-

It might happen that we are in various situation and face with unexpected

problems while we’re teaching. Whether we are in positive situation or negative

one, it can keep us not to be confused that we have our own appropriate

disciplines. Now that I suppose I’m in following three situations reflecting on my

experience. First, the situation when I want my students to speak English only in

my class or my director wants an English only policy. Secondly, when I need the

manner for coping with the absence and tardiness of my students, and the other

is ‘what can I help and how can I help the students who have difficulties in their

homework, presentation or play?’

I think it would be very difficult part that we should change the structure of

sentences when we speak second language or target language. But especially for

beginners, they would apparently need dictionary to use a word that can express

what they mean. English-English dictionary is useful at first stage. When the

words don’t leap to mind, learners become embarrassed and spit out the native

language despite English only policy. Let’s suppose that you have a dictionary. It

is your supporter, makes you have a confidence. Although it takes longer or

bothers you, you have something to lean on when you are speechless. And the

method I recommend is that having students attach or write sentences they use

at first time on a bulletin board. If they find out the word in a dictionary, not only

they can get the synonyms and antonyms which make them have an abundant

command of English vocabulary but also the other students can refer to the

sentences which their classmates have put words together. The reward like

coupons which is given to Ss who add sentences on a bulletin board can

encourage Ss to have many expressions. In this case, positive rewards of Skinner’s

conditioning way might work, increasing the likelihood of the behavior occurring

again. This way can provide the teacher with learning state of Ss and information

that who has a will to study according to the board or the number of coupons.

And all the sentences are valuable if we utilize their work. For instance, we can

correct the errors, give another expression more useful in practical life.

The absence and tardiness couldn’t be the problem of only laziness and

personalities of Ss. It is necessary to see them from the viewpoint of Ss who have

resistance and hostile to the class or to the educational policy of the teacher. In

this case, the Ss need to take counseling. They might be reluctant to attend the

class just because the assignment is heavy or they cannot follow the class which

is difficult for them. When you have a chance to counsel with the Ss who go

through under these circumstances, you rather drill based on their level. When

they reach the goal you made for them, you can reduce the assignments that the

teacher assigned to all classmates in common. This negative reward way of

Skinner’s theory will be more effective in this case.

Given that there are Ss who expect that they want to make presentations or

speeches successfully by the help of their teacher. How can you help them

prepare for theirs? It’s hard to spend a lot of time to explain how to make the

presentation from beginning to end like mentoring. Although mentoring is the

most effective way to let them attain their goals, we have many Ss and lack of

time. I think the best way to understand what they should do is teacher’s

demonstration. Keep following and imitating what they saw enables to improve

their ability and competence. One time of the teacher’s demonstration and the

student’s practice would be better than 10times of teacher’s explanation.

What can I find out conclusively? My teaching philosophy is “Get back to the

beginning when I was a learner, and put myself in the students’ shoes.” That

means my English ability and a lot of knowledge is less important thing than the

way to make the Ss inspired and acquire the target language. I believe teaching is

not successful until I fully assess the students’ conditions.