**Assignment1**

My Second Language Learning Experience

**Date: 2013-12-09**

**Name: Mina (Minah Sung)**

I’ve learned English for more than 10 years and I have many experiences taking many English courses because I really wanted to improve my English skills. I was one of the students who really hated to learn English in my school years, because I’ve been taught by “The Explainer” typed teachers. Their teaching type is maybe Grammar Translation method. Their language class was very boring and they had no methodology, trying to just explaining and analyzing English grammar and reading materials and giving so many tests and exams. And classrooms were very traditional and teacher-centered, only teacher almost talked and students listened without saying anything. Maybe many students including me don’t like this way of teaching and the worst thing is learners still can’t speak well.

I’d like to learn “English Speaking” and communicate with people. So, I entered an English private school, famous for specific program. Many Korean students are very frustrated by traditional language teaching, that program started to be popular among some learners. It was like a camp, that’s why I had to be in that school all day long for taking these two-month courses.

In that school, all learners listened and repeated many sentences. Even if we didn’t know the sentences’ meaning well, we just kept repeating and repeating, trying to mimic native’s pronunciation, intonation, etc. and we had pair-work and practiced sentences with a little bit changing some words. Maybe it is very similar to the Audio-Lingual Method. And I believe that this method is better than GTM, but it is only effective with students’ great efforts and it requires strong will of learning English.

I knew my speaking was improved with this method, and I loved teacher’s enthusiastic attitude, but I didn’t like this school’s atmosphere which forced students to repeat again and again. Maybe this program was helpful, because the students were adults who had goal-oriented, relevancy oriented characteristics. It would be hard for children who don’t have. But I think this is one of effective methods if we use it well.

I am very sorry that many of English schools still have traditional teaching way like GTM, But some of schools is trying to change from traditional to modern teaching (small groups, students-centered, using a lot of methodology, multi-media), especially in kindergarten, elementary schools. In these kinds of classes, teacher can be the involver or enabler who gives many opportunities to students beyond explainer.

And I think teachers don’t need to use only one method, two or three methods can be combined and teachers can use their own personal methodology. There are so many ways of teaching and scientific researches and many guild lines for teachers looking for new teaching skills. It is very important for teachers to learn new methodologies and develop their own skills, but the most important thing is being him / herself to students. Teacher should show respect, empathize with student’s problems, and be authenticable.

I hope to make my own method as a teacher in the future, and I hope students like my class. I wish my class is very interesting and motivate students learn more.