**TESOL 01: Second Language Acquisition Assignment**

According to Jim Scrivener’s “Learning Teaching”, it states that there are 3 types of teachers which are explainers, involvers, and enablers. Like most people, I have been taught by many teachers in my lifetime and from my experiences, I would prefer to be taught by an involver type teacher for learning new languages. I personally had bad luck with teachers when it came to learning new languages.

When I was in college, I took a beginners Japanese language course. My professor was an explainer and seemed as if she only cared about how well we wrote the Japanese characters, Hiragana. She was a French woman who studied Japanese for about 10 years and her main interest was botany, not the Japanese language. I remember my first class with her. She told us stories about how she became fond of the Japanese culture and its flowers. At the end of the class, she would conclude by saying “…but I am French”. I thought I would start learning the new language on future classes, but all she ever gave us were worksheets and bad grades if we didn’t “draw” the characters the way she wanted. Basically, she only cared about accuracy and not fluency. All I ever got from her was negative feedbacks. The teacher talking time (TTT) was always high and the student talking time (STT) was always very low. I ended up dropping the course and all I got from that course was lack of confidence.

Another experience I had with learning a new language was when I took beginners French class in university. My French professor was also an explainer and somewhat of an involver. Her main focus was on pronunciations during class and gave us loads of homework. I remember one time when she asked us to act out a situation where we had to ask a question to a French person. In French, I asked what time it was. I enjoyed her class but I never really learned anything except how to ask what time it is.

If I were to teach English, I would like to be more of an involver type teacher. Instead of giving boring lessons all day, I would like to have the students learn by allowing them to experiment what they have learned through various activities. I would like to take out what I thought was boring and useless, and turn a class into a place where students can learn an unfamiliar language without losing confidence. I would focus on TTT too, but would like to have a class where there is more STT with a friendly environment.

As I’m learning about methods of teaching, I picture what type of teacher I would like to become to my students. I also think about what kind of teacher I would want to be remembered by. Especially when it comes to adult learners, I agree with Malcolm Knowles’s study on the Characteristics of Adult learners of how we, as the teacher, should approach the students with more respect and how we should acknowledge their needs as most of them are self directed, goal oriented, relevancy oriented, practical, and has more life experiences and knowledge than one would think.

My past experiences for learning a foreign language were not very successful. Stephen Krashen, University of Southern California Professor, stated six hypotheses on language acquisition. Basically, it talks about how different teaching methods help students acquire the foreign language and how they can put it to use. I will go by Krashen’s and Knowles’s studies and improve my skills to become a successful involver type teacher where students can learn and gain confidence.