**TESOL 01: Second Language Acquisition Assignment**

**My English Learning Experience**

**NAME: Jess (Jong-soo, Won)**

**CLASS: TESOL 97 Weekend**

**INSTRUCTOR: Jayme Brown**

**DATE: February 22, 2014**

**Outline**

**Introduction**

**Body**

1. Characteristics of Adult Learners

2. Traditional vs. Modern classrooms

3. Teacher Types

4. Effective Teaching

**Conclusion**

**Introduction**

Sitting in front of my computer, I was very happy to bring my good memories with my English professor Mr. Lee back to here. When I was in university, I had to take a second language course for graduation. So I took an English class without expectations. I only hoped to get a good grade. However, I was frustrated when he presented his plan for the semester on the first day. There were too many group works and presentations. Like many Korean students, I got used to traditional classroom like ‘Chalk & Talk’. But soon I realized that he was a good guider to help learning to happen. Using following concepts in the TESOL 01 module, I want to explain how Mr. Lee guided me to learn English with enjoyment.

**Characteristics of Adult Leaners**

Before Mr. Lee, I had never experienced a classroom in which students feel comfortable and enjoy learning. It was very new to me back then. But now I can understand that he was always trying to make student-centered class by making us to talk and lowering TTT (Teacher Talking Time). Surprisingly I was very enjoying his class with all the group works and tasks because he let us to decide topics for our own projects. Also I was proud of myself to be a group leader who can control team projects. This means that I enjoyed a self-directed situation as an adult learner. As Malcolm Knowles stated, I think Mr. Lee was a good facilitator and guider to help us reach our goals.

**Traditional vs. Modern classrooms**

As I mentioned above, my English learning environment before university was very traditional. I must study English to get a good grade only because I have to enter university. Every day I had to memorize many academic words and jargons that I can’t remember any more. In this situation, modern ways of teaching with full of activities might be considered as a time consuming process. After the semester with Mr. Lee, contrary to what people generally think, I felt that I actually learned something in his modern classroom. I learned not only how to improve my English communication skill but also how to build relationships with people.

In his classroom, the only thing he stressed was an importance of good teamwork and respect between team members. I still remember what he said to me later. He said that you got a good grade because you were in a good team. I think it explains how modern classroom works.

**Teacher Types**

When I saw the syllabus of Mr. Lee’s class, I honestly thought that he might be a lazy teacher. Because there were no lecture at all while each team had to give a presentation in front of class every week. Now I can understand what type of teacher he was in classroom. Most the time he was an Enabler. He was giving students opportunities to do things and making student direct themselves. I think that’s the reason why I could enjoy the whole semester for the first time.

**Effective Teaching**

According to Stephan Krashen’s Affective Filer Hypothesis, second language acquisition will be more effective when learners feel comfortable and relaxed. I asked myself what the best part of Mr. Lee’s English class was. I think what I like the most about his class was his good rapport with students. He was authentic and down to earth but still was a powerful teacher. He made people feel free to join the class so that they could learn more effectively. In my opinion, removing a barrier between teacher and learners is the most effective way of teaching.

**Conclusion**

Jim Scrivener, the author of “Learning Teaching”, said that teaching is about working with people. Having opportunity to think about my English teachers I have met before, I understand that how to teach is important as well as what to teach. Now I know that I can enhance the students’ learning when I build a true relationship with them.

When I decided to become an English teacher for students who can’t afford to study, I thought that all problems will be easily solved if I study more. But I realized that giving them knowledge is just a part of teaching. I want to be a teacher who can always be on the same page with students. As a counselor, guider, and sometimes as a friend, I want to encourage my students to continue their study so that they can get many opportunities to overcome poverty.