**[98기/WK] JiEun, Hwang(Jessica) – 1st essay**

Q. Write 500-750 word essays describing a second language environment that you have experienced. Was it a success or a failure as a language learning experience? Why?

Relate your personal belief to concepts learned in the TESOL 01 module: characteristics of adult learners, traditional vs. modern classrooms, teacher types, and effective learning.

Actually I am major in German and have chance to learn German as a second language in my whole university life. I entered the university without any knowledge of German. So, when I freshman I was beginner. However, most of my professor was more like explainer rather than involver or enabler. They were strongly focused on grammar and reading. Even if we a have a speaking lecture, it was for the intermediate learners. I had hard time to understand all lectures or even hard to find my interest. I mean my motivation to learn was getting lower. Even if I learned German for almost 4 years, only I can do is slightly reading. Therefore, I think I fail to learn 2nd language.

Still many university doing traditional teaching rather than accept modern style. The student’s role is primarily to listen and concentrate when teacher transmits knowledge. However, is it really effective way to learn language?

We can find out that elementary kids and children speak better than university students. Why? Because are they young? Or because are they smarter than university students? I guess answer is no. They are more exposed to modern style of learning and learn more interestingly. That’s why they can learn fast.

In my opinion, adult learners usually know why they need to learn L2. In other words, they already know what do they want achieve from that class. So, it is much easier to motivate them to learn compare to kids. But, most students will enter the classroom with some degree of nervousness. Too much will prevent them from learning so, effective teacher uses games, group activities, music, or other resources to lower the emotional obstacles.

Caring about the learner also means creating a safe environment where risks are encouraged and students are not forced into embarrassing situation. Teacher make classroom be relaxed, casual and authentic as well as attentive and focused. And using the students own language for explanation can save class time but should be gradually replaced with explanation in the target language so students can imagine what the words meaning.

Also, effective teachers know how and when provide correction and feedback. While students are speaking note important mistakes and write them down to get back to after their speaking is finished, rather than interrupt students. If you marked every mistake, the learner may get discouraged and give up.

Furthermore, use visual and audio method can used to keep students focused on the lesson, emphasis a point and express many things in a non-verbal way. For example, shows how L2 language culture different from their native before starts to learn. Understanding other culture can determine the degree of student’s learning interests.

Lastly, teacher must pay attention all students are involved in your class. Let students participate, activate and talk more except in case you need a specific explanation. Then, students can learn language more fun with confident. It can definitely lead to speed of learning too.

Above all, most important thing in learning is fun. Make students do really enjoy they are doing.