Essay Assignment

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Everything stared when I had to go to India for my middle school education. To me, English was just another country’s language and I never thought that it was really important to me. But English became most important thing to me since I had to go to India. My mother has asked me to have a tutor to learn English. The teacher was my mother’s friend’s daughter. She has been way from country for long time and going to university abroad. She was fluent in English but she has not taught that many students and I do not think that she knew about methodologies for teaching. She did not know how good I was in English and did not try to understand me as a student who does not know anything from English. She just thought that she could teach anything to me and I would understand it and she was teaching me what she wants to teach. She was teaching English to me at her pace rather than mine. If I studied by myself, I think I could have done the same as she have taught me. Every lesson was reading the textbook that she has brought and translating English words into Korean, and we were speaking in Korean. I did not get a chance to practice what I have learned or had activities to perform any of my English skills she has taught me. Nevertheless, I didn’t necessarily use English everyday and not having any knowledge of English, it was really difficult to study English by my own. While I was learning English from her, the only thing I have gained was an idea what English is, nothing more. I was not even close to speak English to others or to read English children books. Because of this experience, I did not want to study English and lost my interest for studying English.

Her method of teaching was so simple, translating English into Korean, reading, and memorizing vocabularies, such a traditional way of ‘learning’ the language. She was pouring her knowledge into mine. The way she taught was not the best way to teach students who needed to acquire the language. It was really far off from I have learned in TESOL course. Since she did not have enough experience on teaching, she was teaching me the way she was taught by. She was teaching me with Grammar Translating method. She was the main speaker and I was listener. I was writing down what she asked me to or repeating after her. Only thing she did was explaining everything to me. When she teaching me, she just explained grammar rules, we did not practiced or use it in the sentences to show me how the rules work. When she was teaching me, I was not acquiring the language but just learning about it. With this way of teaching, it just gave me an idea of what the language looks like but did not made me fluent in English.

By taking this TESOL course, it made me to believe that there is a nature order of acquiring the language. Because she had no understanding of it, she was teaching me at her pace and studying went by without noticing what is important for me. Since she was teaching me what she wants to teach rather than something that is on my level, made my English skills get mixed up. I think I could be in better situation if I was taught by a person who knew about teaching methodologies.

When I learn something, I prefer being active, using tools or working with my body or going to some places to look at them and see what they are. But with this tutor, there were not a thing that we could be active. As this class went by, I was loosing my concentration. I needed something to hold me down. I was keep thinking when this class is going to finish. I start to learn English just because I had no choice but to go to India and never thought that I needed English to live. I guess my motivation was extrinsic than Intrinsic. I got rewards for memorizing certain amount of words that she asked me to do. Because my motivation was extrinsic, I thought that studying English was just another thing to get reward for, not the thing I have to know to survive in India.

Back than, I thought English was a thing to study to get reward and I was focusing more on getting reward part than learning English can help me. I keep thinking that If I could have met someone else who knew more about methodologies or who had good rapport with me, I would be better speaker or really fluent in English. This experience gave me an idea that by taking this course would make me a better teacher who could teach student in many different ways and better for them.