**My Best Teacher**

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever”

-Mahatma Gandhi.

Education about English was very simple in Korea When I was a student. I started

learning English from middle school and we always memorized English grammar

and vocabulary. All my teachers were explainers, but I had a chance to study

English in Canada. There were various type of teachers. Some teachers adhered

to tradition classrooms, so they were explainers, but all my teachers in my

institute were Involvers or Enablers.

Amomg them I would like to write one of my best English teachers, Ignacio.

When I stayed in Canada to study English, I really wanted to improve my

speaking skill so I chose Beritz English institute. It has a very small class, the

member of class is lesser than 6 or 7 there. So it was very good environment to

practice speaking English. My teacher was Ignacio during studying Beritz in

Toronto for 3months in 2010.

He came from Chile when he was 10 years old. His first

language was Spanish and his wife was from southern America as well. So he said

he always used Spanish at home. Even though he used Spanish at home, he did

not have a Spanish accent when he use English so we wonder about it and asked

to him how he could do it.

He told us “ Think in English. If you try to translate, you will hesitate so stop

thinking in your language.” He had some experiences about it so he knew

how to get second language acquisition and wanted us to know about it and

gave advice to us through conversation. These processes were fallowing

characteristics of adult learners. Our class consisted of various ages from 16 to

middle age. We had one or two under age members so adolescents also

followed like this his teaching style.

We talked with him a lot. Our conversation was autonomous and self directed.

We chose news or topics related to history or our major interest so on and talked

each other freely and let us work on tasks that reflected our interests almost

everyday morning. We were able to choose almost the topics of presentation

which we had talked about our morning conversation. when our conversation

was overheating he interrupted as a facilitator. The topics about ethnics or

race which were sensitive problem sometimes but we were also able to learn

vocabulary about those.

We talked together a lot so the teacher knew about our experiences and goals –

oriented so he gave us vocabulary and usage about them.

He treated us as equals in experience and knowledge and allowed us to freely

voice our opinions and ideas in class. Even though one of our class mates who

was a 16 years old boy asked the teacher’s advice about which condom could

choose from or where was a store and the teacher listened to him and asked him

back several things. He was patient with him I remember It was really

off the topic and inappropriate question in our class in my opinion but the

teacher did not ignore him.

Therefore his teaching style was almost a Enabler in my opinion and I knew that

it is not easy work.

He had patience to observe students and passion to make the class vividly. He

taught us using modern teaching skills and gave us information how to speak

English fallowing his experiences. He helped students be autonomous learners

and we have gotten confidence about speaking English. Not only his teaching

skills but also his autonomous class makes him the best teacher for me so far.

If I become a teacher I also want to help my students autonomous like his class

in the future.