My Two Language Learning Experience

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**OUTLINE**

Ⅰ. INTRO  
I’d been studying English long times but I had not have a confidence in English.

Ⅱ. BODY

1. Motivating and student oriented language learning experience in the UK
2. Boring and teacher oriented English learning experience in Korea

Ⅲ. CONCLUSION

I’d like to be a guide so people can know that English is fun and a good communication tool.

Since I was at the 1st grade in middle school, I’ve been studying English for 24 years but I have a little confidence in English. So I was hovering at English Institution during a lunch time and it became my obsession to study English. So far I meet many adult English learners at the institution and they also have the same feelings about English, lack of confidence and afraid of speaking. When we have a discussion about public English education in Korea, most of them are complained about the poor quality of teaching and need to be changed. However, we hardly know what the good English teaching is. Fortunately, I could meet a good example when I was in the UK.

When I was a 29 years old, I thought that English could become an obstacle of my carrier development. So I decided to go abroad to improve English and went to Brighton in the UK. There I met new English teaching classes which were quite different from Korean.

I joined the English institution in Brighton. At the first day, a director evaluated my English and sent me to the Intermediate Level class. I met my favorite teacher, Penny, who had a lot of teaching experiences. She was good at motivating each student and taught how to fix our own mistakes. We had a textbook but she only used it for explaining the basic grammar. She focused on communication so we always spoke to classmates with a lot of group activities such as discussion and speech.

I took a Cambridge exam course taught by Penny. She gave us the clear goal and taught us the test relevant knowledge such as how a grader marks the score so we could prepare well. Under her teaching, I’d improved a lot so could reach my goal. She guided me to figure out how to improve English like a self-correction so I could study English more self-directed afterward. Finally She made me to overcome the English speaking phobia.

She also informed me that my life experience could be helpful to other student. There was a 18-years-old boy, who lost his mom recently so he became very silent and calm so not many friends around. When I heard his story from teacher, I became his speaking partner and talked about not only test but also life related things together. I could empathy his situation and became a big sister for him. One day, he could tell his mom’s sudden death to other classmate and he became more active and brighter like he used to be before his mom’s death. Penny was a definitely enabler type of teacher because she made me enjoy learning an English as well as feeling confidence in English.

However, when I was in Middle school and High school in Korea, I did not like English because it was improved very slowly compared to other subjects like Mathematics. I liked Mathematics, Science and History because it was easy to get a high score as long as I studied hard. However, English was not like that. Even I studied really hard, I had a difficulty with listening as well as speaking so I lost my interest in English.

English teachers always taught us the grammar only based on textbook. They were just explainers. They wrote down full of grammar sentences on the chalk board and I just took notes individually and tried to remember them to get a good score at examination. There was no English speaking test so I only focused on reading, listening and short length of writing. Sometimes I had to read the textbook loudly but it was the scary things to do because some teacher made students embarrassed when the students made a mistake. Teachers did not respect students and students should follow what teacher talked to do and respected them without reason. At that time, I thought English was a boring subject and not fit for me. I kept studying English but it’s just for getting a better score and I never liked it.

However because of the experience in Brighton, I realize that English is not a subject for study but an important communication tool. It can make to understand each other among people who are using different languages. English can help me to meet many friends around the world as well as getting a better job opportunity. I’d like to learn the various teaching methodology so I can be a guide like Penny to help somebody who gave up English from the bad experience. Therefore they can also enjoy English like me.