My two language learning experience

Iksoo

Chris

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1. Intro

Why my Japanese is better than English! Even I studied English more longer than Japanese!!

2. Body

 1) Three categories of teaching style in my previous experience

 2) Second language acquisition in my previous experience

3. Conclusion

Teachers must give students time to think and speak in the class for their real situation .

I have studied Japanese almost 10years, and also studied English for 15years or more longer.

but somehow my Japanese is much better than English.

I've never thought about the reason why that situation happen to me .

Here is the reason I learned from the Tesol class.

Most of Korean Classrooms seem still "Traditional Classrooms" which is centered by teachers and is shown low participation of students.

It is very hard to extract a passion of students for learning language.

Passion is the most important thing for learning. I enjoyed Japanese class every time. That was because I had a passion for learning Japanese. But ironically and unfortunately there were no teachers who inspire me to study Japanese. I just liked Japanese, so studied it by myself. I am pretty sure this is very rare. Learning language needs good teacher who can motivate students' passion.

I want to discuss differences between 'Traditional Classrooms' and 'Modern Classrooms' in my previous experiences.

When I learned Japanese in my college, the Japanese professor was 'Explainer'. Usually 'Explainer' knows subject matter very well. but they relies on explaining lecturing to give information too much. It makes students very passive. so they just spend their time to take notes, or just listen what professor is saying. My professor was same type. He did not give us time to think and participate in the class. Students couldn't find any interest of Japanese in the class.

To figure out the reason why Korean class rooms show ‘Traditional classrooms’, we need to know Asian culture first. The main factor that affected Korean culture was Confucianism. Because of Confucianism, most of Asian have respected for the elders including a teacher. We think this respect states that the elders are people who are more experienced and therefore, more wise. so sometimes we think it's rude to interrupt while a teacher is lecturing. so we usually don't ask a question in the class and also teacher don't give us time to participate in the class. Just we are used to follow what professor order to us.

but when I took a Spanish class in the US, I was so shocked. Every students taking Spanish class was very talkative and questionable. While the professor was teaching Spanish, whenever students had a question, they just raised their hand and asked something they curious without any hesitation.

Compare to my Japanese professor who was 'Explainer', he was 'Involver' and 'Enabler'

'Involver' is tries to involve students and finds interesting and appropriate activities. but ‘Involver’ professor sometimes made me embarrassed. At that time, that was my first class in the US, and I had no any idea how America classes goes. It was just "Culture Shock". That was completely 'Modern classrooms' where I was not used to. I was the only foreigner so I was very shy to speak English, and even also Spanish. I got all the focus from the students in the class, and the professor never stop to ask me questions to know if I was catching up with the class. He always tried to give me some simple explain to help my understand, which was very helpful, but in the other way, it embarrassed me also. Because I could not completely caught up with the class.

He was also 'Enabler'.

'Enabler' knows teaching methodology and has great people skills. With any question, he could deal with. so, always Spanish class was full of energy and joy. but sometimes his 'Involver' and 'Enabler' style made me much shyer than ever. I think 'Involver' and 'Enabler' style are the best way to teach to students, but some circumstance for someone, that can be the worst way also.

After I got the US, I finally realized that I had learned English as 'Acquisition’. I couldn't order a food in a restaurant correctly. Even I had studied English for 15years. I blamed all my English teacher. 'Acquisition' means just knowing about the language. That is the current English education in Korea. I naturally learned English at a real situation in the US. I considerably heard how American people ordered a food or how they had a conversation, and then I remembered it, and repeated it as they said. I kept question how I could say something in English to my American friends or roommates. They gladly answered my question, and corrected my English whenever I wronged. Teachers should know what 'Learning hypothesis' is. That is not just teaching with knowledge which teachers have in their brain. That is "meaningful interactions" between Teachers and Students. Teachers must give some time to students to think how to change Korean to English, and make students image using English in real situation in the class, not just give them the answer. So that they can be free from butterfly in their stomach.