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**My Ideal Teacher**

When I was in New Zealand to study English, I met my best teacher Ms. Helen. She was my conversation class teacher when I was in the beginner’s class as my ability to speak English was poor and I had very high anxiety of speaking English at that time. After taking her class, however, the way I dealt with acquiring English as a second language changed tremendously. That is why I think her class was the most successful class and consider her the best teacher in my life. She used three distinguishable teaching skills which affected me.

Ms. Helen gave me a lot of chances to use “productive skills”, and not only “receptive skills”. She gave us a new word everyday and assigned the homework of writing a single sentence about the word. We started class everyday by reading this sentence to other classmates. After listening to the sentence, she asked us questions regarding the sentence such as the reason why we wrote the sentence to give us a chance to think about and speak our opinions in English. I was terrified of using my productive skills because I only used receptive skills in Korea. But as I got more familiar with using all four skills in the class, I began to understand why she made us use all four skills and how important it is in acquiring English.

In any circumstances, she never pushed us to speak with perfect grammar and sentences because she knew and well understood that most of us were both false and true beginners who only have the ability to use basic words and sentences with high anxiety and low self-esteem about English. She created a more comfortable atmosphere where we could speak freely by praising our endeavor to use English even when we made mistakes. Like the phrase “Praises can even make a whale dance”, we gradually gain confidence and interest in English and at the end of her class we could finally be free from the anxiety in English. I think she made the best use of the affective filter hypothesis even though I am not sure if she knew this hypothesis.

I think she thought we were more visual learners who understand and remember more by seeing and it was absolutely correct. When she taught words, pronunciation and even grammar, she brought and used some her own visual materials to teach us effectively. The reason why this teaching skill was effective is that I can remember more information I acquired in her class and recall better it when I use it in my real life. Through this, we could acquire abilities in English as we used to play and especially it was a chance to clearly understand the use of “tense” grammar even though I knew it before since I had learnt it in Korea.

Ms. Helen, my best teacher, knew how students could enjoy and acquired English as a second language without anxiety. Through the efforts of Ms. Helen, not only my English ability improved, but also my self-confidence and interesting in English, which made me have a bigger determination with something related to English such as teaching English and working on a global team. I would also on day like to be one of the best teachers who can affect students’ lives and be remembered forever like Ms. Helen.