ESSAY1: My English Learning Experience

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Almost every day English class begins everywhere to learn and learn English. It is true that many Koreans spend so many years to study English in schools and academies. Now I am in TESOL class in order to learn how to teach English to students. Before exercising variety of teaching lessons, it would be helpful to recall some of the memorable English learning experiences from childhood to adulthood in school and home.

In my early elementary school years, there was no English class mostly in traditional school system. English learnings and activities depended on such as own interest and family background associated with America. At home, Video and TV programs stimulated my English learning. Especially AFKN (American Forces Korean Network) influenced me very strongly as auditory and receptive learning skills. Also children’s program called Sesame Street’s characters gave colorful visual interests as well. In those days mothers generally acted as pushers to let their young children to be interested in English. My mother made me watch American programs and her favorite was General Hospital (soap opera), enabling English listening skills.

Also in my middle elementary school years, I and my family visiting Canada provided positive impression and good warming up for English learnings for the life time. Before leaving Korea, mother made me practice print and handwriting Alphabets lower to higher cases and doing exercises by learning simple words from preschooler’s English books. One year of school experience in Canada with my school teacher and interaction with native speakers were great experiences. My class teacher was an enthusiastic teacher who really knows the effective teaching method which helped my quick adaptation to new school as a foreign student, and she was always concerned over my immediate needs for English. Moreover, compare to traditional class in Korea, teacher never called a student’s first name there. I remember she first called my first name “Helen” in very friendly manner to open my mind and get rid of my fear in this new American environment with getting along easily with new world of classmates. That is, mainly student focusing modern teaching method which emphasizes student’s problems first to improve was in this classroom in Canada. Also this teaching focused interaction with the student giving positive feedbacks. For instance, I was a leading member for decorating classroom with the teacher who as an involver did conversational discussions and activities with us. Finally my English become well enough to make several good friends getting along well in school studies. In addition, after-school playtime made me review English skills.

After Korean middle and high school’s English studying, the learning process went on for stabilizing basics mostly by listening to grammar lectures and having test for that without dynamic interactions from exercising speaking or writing. However, for my case, when I go abroad to attend a college in America, I was quite well prepared to be involved with the real Western world of English.

And now I am glad that I am interested in teaching English to students who are non-native speakers. I am back to school as an adult learner who has an accumulated life learning experiences and problem solvers, tries to learn from looking back and recalls from my past English learning experiences. Lastly, now in our TESOL class environment, it also was good learnings to look back from my English learning experiences to make knowledge together for the pros and cons in order to compare and contrast traditional and modern classrooms and remind of effective teachings from my past English teachers in America and Korean schools.