**My experience about learning a second language**

**& Important things about teaching English**

**SONG MI RA**

**TESOL 111**

 **13th of March, 2015**

English was my favorite subject in my school days. I was very interested in learning foreign languages. Excepting for learning English in an academy, I learned it only after graduating primary school. It was different from nowadays. At that time, there was no curriculum about English before middle school. The first class that I took in middle school was not impressive. It's because we just learned how to read and write English letters. Since I was taught all of them before entering middle school, I had to take too boring classes for quite some time. My English class in school days almost consisted of receptive parts, such as reading and listening. The environment in class was not active and dynamic. Now I think that the English teacher is not the only one who has to responsible for the boring class. There are several reasons that had to be bound to be like that. There was no good programs that could retrain teachers to learn effective teaching skills. They were just teaching in the way that they were taught.

Fortunately, I can find many English classes interesting these days. There coexists productive and receptive teaching skills at the same time. And classes are planned in a variety ways and with a variety tools, it makes classes dynamic. A few month ago, I watched an program about the one that was such a good English class. It was broadcast on EBS(Korean education broadcasting). The most impressive thing was the way to divide a class. There were about 35 students in class. At first, the teacher gave some questions reviewing the last lesson. The students voluntarily stand up and answer. If two or more students stand up simultaneously, they have some games to decide who will answer. Second, they are divided in 7 groups. In a group, they read some story and discuss on it. After some time, they have to make a question about what they learned. The last thing is that the question paper is put in a box, and it is chosen by other group leader. At this time, each group joins with one another. I'd like to pay attention to the pattern of the class. The class is targeted to each individual at first, and then groups are made to use limited time effectively and let all the students participate in the class. In the last part, they join together. All the members of groups can think about the question at least once and listen to others' talking. At this point they have more chances that can speak and listen. I think that organizing classes like this can make class dynamic.

There are three learner modes, which are visual, auditory and tactile-kinesthetic. It is important that teachers have to recognize their own mode before they try to figure out what the students have individually. It is a human nature that a person tends to teach in the mode that they have. Teachers must avoid teaching in one mode only. It's because that students have different personalities and characteristics. I've learned about multiple intelligence theory created by Howard Gardner who is a psychologist. It is based on the idea that individuals have about 8 distinct intelligences that can be developed over a lifetime.

The eight intelligence is as follow.

-verbal/linguistic

-logical/mathematical

-visual/spatial

-musical

-bodily/kinesthetic

-interpersonal

-intrapersonal

-naturalist

When teachers organize classes and plan some activities, it is crucial to consider which intelligence their students have. But they can easily find out no one has only one intelligence, and they are closely related with one another actually. So the classes and activities have to be made combining features that two or more intelligences have. In addition, depending on age, gender, the number of students, the level of English or purpose of learning, the classes have to be organized.

Teachers can get good information for planning classes by comparing traditional class rooms and modern classrooms. There have some differences as well as similarity. The teaching tools in the traditional classrooms were only chalks and blackboard, comparing with modern classrooms having multi media. Teachers were the instructor of explainer, but now they are the involver and enabler. Concentrating on the differences, teachers can gain good tips how to make the class dynamic and manage it well.

After finishing the first module, I've learned a lot of things about how to plan and manage a class. As a teacher, I have to be diligent to make the classroom dynamic. I also have to care of unplanned time. I have to recognize which learning style I have, and then I have to try to have a well-balanced teaching tool. Through this time, I've known that my some ideas about teaching English are not always the best way to teach. Depending on which intelligence and learning style he or she has, my teaching tools and plans have to be changed accordingly.

As a teacher, I have to be empathy and authentic. Also, I have to be deserved respect from students. If not, although there are many good technical teaching tools and skills in the class, it won't work. So I try to have the three factors every single minute. I think that teaching is difficult, but being a teacher is much more difficult than that.