**My Experiences of Learning**

**English as a Second Language**

TESOL Class 110th

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Writing this essay, I could have a chance to remember how I learned English. I’ve been learning English as a second language for more than 15 years. All the while, I’ve met many kinds of teachers. There were good teachers and bad teachers. There were many kinds of teaching methods fit perfectly to me or not. There were good memories and bad memories.

When I was 12 years old, I tried to learn English for the first time. Even though my parents didn’t force me to study it, I just wanted to. It was fun for me to know about other language then. I loved to listen to pop-songs. I enjoyed reading different kinds of stories written in English. I also liked to watch American dramas. Watching drama, I tried to be familiar with difficult English words. But as time goes by, I studied English not for fun but for the exam. As I was at middle school, all of my teachers were strict. They were the authorities in the classroom. Their teaching methods were totally ‘The Grammar-Translation Method.’ There were no such a fun activities which the teacher and student got together. I had to memorize many vocabularies and grammar patterns. The teacher just let students read literatures or boring passages. I don’t mean that I hated to do those things but the mood in the classroom with the terrible teachers! If the students didn’t do well on test, the teachers scolded them a lot. They were being in the classroom because they just had to be. Learning English became tiring and exhausting thing to me. I was not interested in studying English anymore. My grade got worse, too.

When I started to study in high school, I finally worried about my English ability. I thought I couldn’t learn well in class so I decided to a get private lesson. Luckily, I met the great teacher. She was very friendly and cheerful person. She always tried to make me feel comfortable. I felt free to ask many questions about English. We didn’t just focus on reading or grammar. She wanted to teach me how to communicate in English. Even if it was difficult for me to speak in English, I tried hard. We listened to pop songs together and talked about the lyrics. We sometimes discussed about love life, future dream, politics and even social problems. I never got bored. As I spent time with her, my English ability got better and better. I think meeting my great teacher was the first turning point in my life. That time, I decided to be a teacher like her. I wanted to teach many children who have hard time to study English. Of course, she encouraged me to be a nice teacher.

Thanks to her, now I am teaching lovely students who want to be good at English. As she did to me, I always try to make my students feel comfortable when they attend my class. I also try to make the mood of classroom cheerful and bright. I don’t want my students lose interest in learning English. I realized teachers’ behaviors affect students in many ways. Teachers must have knowledgeable thoughts and share them with students. Those are basic things. In order to do them, teachers have to keep figuring out how to teach learners well and how to deal with their problems. Being a teacher is not an easy job. This job is not only about giving thoughts but also handling people.

Learning a second language is sometimes very harsh and tough. Especially speaking in English is much harder than reading, writing and listening. As a teacher, I must be confidence in every part in English. So I decided to take a TESOL lesson. TESOL is the biggest challenge of my life. I have a responsibility to teach the students well. To teach them well, I have to learn a lot, too. Through this challenge, I met another great teacher this time. I think it can be the second turning point in my life. After finishing TESOL, I am sure I will be a better teacher than now. Learning a second language is the part of my life. I will keep learning and teaching forever.