When I was in high school, a teacher made me have a dream of being a teacher. He was a historical teacher. He usually taught us by telling interesting stories so I was pleased to learn history. He not only taught well but also understood our mind. He led us to good way and talked with us by heart. So I decided to be a good teacher like him. It was a starting line for me to make a decision to be a teacher.

After that, I entered a university and majored in English Linguistics. I liked history but my parents wanted me to major in English. They thought that English is more useful than history. Before learning English in university, I had just known a little English grammar and a little English reading skill. However in university I was getting to learn English professionally, for example history of word, analysis of structures and discourses and so on. These lectures let me know English deeply but weren’t practical because these are just studies. My knowledge of English could be improved but my speaking ability couldn’t.

So I tried to improve practical English skills and got an opportunity of learning and teaching English. That was being an English teacher in an English kindergarten. To get a job, I sent a notice of absence for 6 months to university and then I worked as an English teacher.

In the kindergarten my job was taking care of children, leading a lot of activities (eg. playing board games, singing English songs and dancing) by speaking in English and being an assistant for a native English teacher. Among of them leading activities by using English was difficult for me because I had never learned teaching skills. Fortunately my partner who was native speaker helped me a lot. He had a lot of experiences of teaching English so he gave me effective advices. However I wanted to learn more so decided to do tesol at first.

After the contract with kindergarten was finished, I usually taught English grammar and reading skills to middle school or high school students. I was a classic teacher, explainer. I wrote down English grammar on the white board and let students memorize it. My teaching was only for exam. Actually I learned English like that in my school days. Learning English was focused on grammar and reading parts and I only studied English for exam. It affected the way I taught students. Now, I know that it isn’t effective way.

While I’m doing tesol, I often look back on my former teaching style. And ask questions to myself, ‘How did you teach English to students? Was my teaching style helpful to them?’ Well.. I don’t think so and I regret having done like that. However I think that present makes me better in the future. Learning tesol will make me a world class teacher.