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My great experience of learning English and the best teacher

My best English teacher was Mrs. Gho. She was a counseling department professor of my graduate school in USA and also was teaching English for Korean students. It was a semester course for just Koreans, everyone who thinks they need and want to take an English course. Through that course, I had totally new experiences that I had never learned for 6 years of my English learning experiences in Korea. I will introduce how she gave me a great experience and the reason why I think her teaching class was successful.

First of all, Mrs. Gho was a good teacher that means she was an enabler. She always wanted to give a chance to her students to find out their own way to learn better. She seemed to believe everyone has their own unique learning style. And she tried to bring out their potential. So she asked every student to create their learning material such as essay or short stories for each class. In addition, since originally she was a counseling professor, she knew well how to relate to students personally and tried to be empathetic with all of us. That allowed students to ask any question without anxiety, sometimes even feel free to make mistakes. So I remember that her class was dynamic usually.

Also, Mrs. Gho used modern teaching techniques and this is the second reason behind her successful teaching I think. Her class was basically student-centered. She rarely gave her lecture, rather made her students to talk and discuss about the topic. She just tried to promote students participation through creating an active learning environment. She encouraged each student to create and bring their own material for class so we all could share various materials and learning styles each one of us had. That allows me to say actually the dominant teacher was not her rather students.

The last reason for her success is her teaching approach which based on the input hypothesis. It seemed she definitely understood the input hypothesis and applied that theory into practice. Because she explained English learning process by comparing it to growing bean sprouts. It is important to provide plenty of water to grow bean sprouts every day. But at first it does not seem to be working because all the water we provided looked like drained out. It seems we just rinsed bean sprouts and also seems like it does not have any effect on growing. But the real fact is that it is the process of growing bean sprouts. This bean plant is growing every day but the growing itself can be revealed at specific point when the plants soaked water enough. Mrs. Gho explained that developing our communication ability in English is just like growing bean sprouts. We need to be watering like bean sprouts and that means we need to be exposed to variety of real situation communicating in English. So there can be comprehensible input and when the time comes which means there were enough input can cause output, then we can communicate. Also she added that we could not expect our English communication ability would grow within a day, a week, and even a month. Because input needs to be sufficient like water and it will take time to be accumulated. So we need to be patient. Like the Natural order hypothesis says, if someone who was regarded in pre-production stage or early production stage, then she did not forced them to speak. Instead she tried to lower her students' stress and anxiety level by encouraging them to express what they thought and felt in English. With these observations I convince that she clearly understood the input hypothesis.

The times learning English in her class was a great learning experience. Mrs. Gho was an enabler type teacher who helped and promoted students to learn well. Also her class was student-centered and the students took the dominant role in class. For example, students made a decision on the topic and materials for each class. Moreover, she had the input hypothesis based teaching approach. So she waited and encouraged students to communicate in English. Her class was very practical and when the class was over all the students said it was totally new and great learning experience and they really enjoyed the times. Those are the reasons why her class was successful, and also how she could be my role-model as a teacher.