Hyunsook Bae (Annie)

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My Best Teacher

In Korea high school students learn English as the first foreign language. Learning second foreign language is mandatory and students can choose their second language. I chose Japanese since it is a very close country to Korea and Japanese culture was very popular when I was a high school student. I met my Japanese teacher Lee Eunjoo and she was the best teacher I have ever had. While I was learning Japanese from her for two years, I improved my Japanese and got interested in keeping learning Japanese. There are few reasons why I chose Mrs. Lee as the best teacher. She helped her students enable to use their Japanese skills. She made her class successful by using modern teaching techniques and applying three learner modes.

Mrs. Lee was enabler because she was confident enough to share control with learners and created the conditions that enable the students to learn for themselves. Her aim to teach Japanese was students enable to speak at least simple Japanese sentences in case they have chances to meet Japanese. My classmates and I performed role-play presentation related to the situations that we could face during traveling. My team presented what kinds of expression we use when we purchase some souvenirs in a department store. By making this presentation I utilized what I have learned in the class and had confidence in my Japanese ability.

When I was a high school student while other teachers used traditional teaching techniques, Mrs. Lee used modern teaching techniques. In those days language teaching was more focused on receptive skills than productive skills. However I practiced not only receptive skills but also productive skills such as speaking and writing with Mrs. Lee. At the end of each class she set up some pair work activities to practice what students learned on that day. To improve writing skills, she gave us essay assignment four times a year and corrected our mistakes. Through these exercises we learned four Japanese language skills.

Considering how I learned so much, I think Mrs. Lee understood the three learner modes; visual, auditory, and tactile-kinesthetic. She applied these three learner modes to teach Japanese in her class. For example, she showed us some famous Japanese animations and we learned useful phrases from the animations. In another class, we sang a Japanese song so we could remember the lyrics and learned new vocabulary. For kinesthetic mode learners, she used dance routines to teach vocabulary which is related to directions. Using three different learning modes made us to learn Japanese more effectively and efficiently.

Mrs. Lee led her Japanese class successful by using her diverse teaching skills. My classmates and I enjoyed her class and she boosted our motivation to learn Japanese. When I become an English teacher in the future, I would like to teach English like Mrs. Lee. She was aware of how to enable students to apply what they have learned. In my opinion language teaching should be based on integrated-skill approach. I would like to keep a balance in teaching four language skills; listening, reading, writing, and speaking as what Mrs. Lee did. Considering students have different ways to learn and applying three learner modes was also one of the reasons for her to lead successful class. Mrs. Lee is my role model as a language teacher and I will make my effort to be a competent teacher like her.