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Best Teacher in My Life

Everybody has their own best or worst teachers in their life time. Who is your best teacher? I want to tell you about my story who gave me the joy of learning English. Mrs. Chae who taught me English with private group lesson was the best teacher in my life. Interestingly, she is my friend’s mother. When I was 7 years old, I met my friend and her mother. Her family members are all Koreans but they lived in the U.S. for 5 years and came back to Korea when I met them. Whenever I visited her house, they spoken in English, and some stuffs such as bed with lovely curtains or toys she brought from America were enough to dragging my attention. So, Mrs. Chae noticed that I am interesting in American culture and asked me whether I want to learn English or not. And I started learning English right away with another four friends. We learned at her house. I think that class was successful because she made us enjoy ourselves at the class with music, dance moves, and role playing.

She was an enabler type of teacher. For instance, she let us to make sentences by combining some words and to speak the sentences we created. Even if we were true beginners, she did not push us to memorizing words. By reading fairy tale books, we could guess and learned words with images naturally. Also, she seemed to know multiple intelligence theory. Among the eight intelligences, she used five (verbal, visual, musical, bodily, interpersonal) intelligences. She often played tapes that had dialogue with rhythm, so that we could repeat sentences with music. And she sometimes showed us moves relating to the meaning of the words, and we danced with the music.

Mrs. Chae used modern teaching techniques. Her class was student-centered because she tried to listen carefully whenever we speak in English even our pronunciation was not good enough. And she tried to establish situations likely to promote communication. For example, she always welcomed when we had any questions during the class and she also helped us to do role playing with the dialogues so that we could practice speaking as much as we could.

Considering how I learned so much, I think she seemed to understand the affective filter hypothesis because she tried to make an environment where we feel free to make mistakes. It was obviously a low-anxiety learning environment and I had confidence whenever she praised me. My motivation for learning English was getting better because of the compliment. And even we did not have assignment, I just read fairy tale books out loud over and over again at home.

In brief, I still remember the atmosphere of her class, and it remains still a good memory. I am so thankful for having her as my first English teacher. It was so successful to learning from her, because she understand the techniques which I mentioned above and she was authentically herself. Also, she gave us clear, positive feedback all the time. While I am writing this essay, I determined again to be the best teacher in someone’s life time.