Essay

Best Decision

“The word impossible is not in my dictionary“

By Napoleon Bonaparte

Juny (JinSil) Lee

549 words

 “You are a stupid monkey” is the first English sentence that I heard from my brother when he came back to Korea from America. Since I didn’t know English at all, I cried so hard right after I heard that sentence. To beat my brother up, I determined to study abroad. This is the only reason why I went to Canada. However, it became the best decision that I made in my whole life.

Since I didn’t even know the alphabets correctly, it was hard for me to get along with native friends at the first time. Nevertheless, fortunately, I met Ms. Maki who was my first and also last ESL teacher. She was a typical type of involver. She tried to actively involve students and put a great deal of effort into finding appropriate and interesting activities.

Even though I talked really slowly at the first time, Ms. Maki never rushed. She always waited until I finished my talking. Moreover, she helped me to find the answers by myself. She could just tell me the answers but she didn’t. She just gave me some hints and let me feel the sense of accomplishment. Furthermore, to make me interested in English, she always let me played English games such as hang man and who am I at the end of the class. In addition, she helped me to talk freely about my opinion. Because of her efforts, I could participate and concentrate deeply in her class. When she said something wrong if I found it out, she said “Good job Juny! You concentrated well in class” and gave me some candies. It made me to listen carefully to her speaking. I think her teaching method helped me to improve my English skills speedily.

I mostly met great teachers while I was in Canada but I remember the particular teacher whom I couldn’t really get along with. His name was Mr. Chang. He was a typical type of explainer. He seemed to have limited knowledge of teaching methodology. Moreover, he often relied on ‘explaining’ or ‘lecturing’ as a way of conveying information to students. During his class, since he was just explaining everything, no one was able to have a chance to talk. I tried to participate in the class but he didn’t let me. Even though he explained mostly everything in the text book, I barely understood a few things. Furthermore, I kept nodding off in his class.

In conclusion, the second language environment that I have experienced was pretty success. Since I could hang out with my native friends, it was really helpful for me to practice English. In addition, I could experience other cultures. In my opinion, understanding of other cultures is very important when we try to study other languages. Anyways, studying in Canada for three years is one of the best memories in my life. I really thanked to my brother because he made me mad and think about studying abroad. I was very lucky to meet the teacher like Ms. Maki. I’m really eager to make my own best teaching method from my TESOL class. Therefore, I can be a great teacher like Ms. Maki.