A Second Language environment that I have experienced

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English is the Global Language, so that is the reason why most Koreans have been studying English since they got into the school. I started to study English when I was 10 years old. At that time I didn’t expect that I would meet the best teachers and the worst teacher in the short time when I was younger. And one of interesting things is they affected not only attitude of English studies but also my career and teaching style. Through this essay, I remind two kinds of teachers and I would like to analyse them.

I met the worst teacher when I was in the 6 grade in elementary school. Her name was Miss Nora who was native speaker from the United State. Before started her class, she always asked students how the students were and every students answered ‘I am fine thank you and you?’ She taught like traditional classrooms. Miss Nora didn’t involve the students - just stand in front of the students. She was an explainer and she used receptive skills via a book which has many pictures and an audio CD. I supposed that she might think that is enough to use visual things and listening activities, so she just focused on her book and hadn’t prepared other activities. When Miss Nora taught students, first of all she demonstrated how to read some words and dialogue and students just repeated again and sometimes they read with partner. She had never corrected student’s pronunciation, she picked some of students and just checked how they read some words. Miss Nora didn’t care about the class level and she just focused on some students who can follow her class. Also she didn’t respect their students and didn’t give some feedbacks to students. One day Miss Nora picked and asked me to read some words but unfortunately I couldn’t remember how to read. So I was freezing and got panic and other students just whispered. Maybe she waited for my speaking but she looked quite upset. After that she had never picked me anymore and I hated not only the teacher but also studying English.

When I got into the middle school I had struggled studying English since I had never learned the Grammar before I studied in the middle school, and mentally I denied studying English even if I tried. In academy I met Miss Cho and due to her I started to feel interesting to study in English and overcame my trauma. Miss Cho was different to other teachers. Before started a class, she explained what we will do and except writing in her class she prepared activities to use receptive skills and productive skills. She used not only a book, sometimes she gave some handouts to the students and tried to use only speaking in English during her class – though she is a Korean. Miss Cho was Involver, she didn’t in the centre but she engaged students not to be shy and make them felt interesting during her class. Miss Cho led to play the game or sing a song. She didn’t show grammar structure but after demonstration, she gave us many chances to speak. Miss Cho gave me not only some feedbacks how to study English but also consider my feeling. I suppose Miss Cho is only person who has ‘Empathy’, ‘Authentic’ and ‘Respect’ in my English teachers – before I got into the university who I have ever met.

As I met these teachers I realise if I want to be a good teacher for students I need not only good teaching styles but also to respect the students and think about their level. Miss Cho affected my career and my future teaching style. I won’t imitate my teacher’s teaching style but I will follow the good attitude. It is not easy to be an Involver and Enabler but at least I would like to be an English teacher who shows the respect and gives positive feedbacks. In the movie ‘the society of the dead poets’ a teacher said to the students ‘ a teacher said “Believe it or not each and every one of us is one day going to stop breathing turn cold and die.” I believe my future that I am able to make my class interesting and enjoy learning, and I will believe my students learn not only English and a precious thing in their life.