“To be interesting, be interested.”

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733 words

When I recall my own teachers, I find it quite hard to recall details of individual lessons, but I can recall the way that the teacher related to the class and how I felt in this teacher’s presence. There were two teachers make me think ‘Teaching of anything, demands energy and attention from the learner’. I would like to tell my intention about the importance of rapport between teachers and learners by introducing and analyzing two teachers I had experienced. Interestingly, they were both English teachers and they both had completed TESOL course as well.

One of the teachers that I would like to recall first is who the least favorite teacher I have ever had. When I was 17 years old, there was an opportunity to learn by a teacher who is well known as competent at teaching English. Her name was Jury and she came to our home for tutoring two times a week. At that time what I expected from her was only improvement of TOEIC result and preparation for test for university admission. Jury was a typical type of explainer teacher of traditional classroom. She had spent class time transmitting knowledge to me with occasional questions. After the explanations, I usually do some practice exercises to test whether I had understood what she had been told. She primarily talks solely and I was listening and concentrating. And she was straight and honest person who is totally being herself. But I didn’t felt that she has respect or empathy for me. She had criticized on my studying and also of my personal things as well. The way she talks to me made me feel unpleasant because she seems to believe it’s okay to say whatever she thinks and doesn’t caring what I feel. Since she was a strict teacher, I felt fear to take risks of answering wrong too. We begin to stat with taking exams every time and I wasn’t allowed to make over two mistakes. If I keep break the rules that she made, such as ‘have to pass quiz under two errors’, than I will not able to teach by her anymore and she may say something badly about my attitude and ability of learning. The atmosphere of the class made me feel heavy and stressful so much I often felt not good physically before meeting her. My English skills, particularly ‘receptive skills’ were highly improved but the memory of learning from her wasn’t good.

Secondly, the teacher I would like to recall is the professor from my university. I was sophomore majoring ‘Mission English’ at the ‘ACTS (Asian center for theological studies and mission)’. At that time, I registered ‘Practical English for mission’ and ‘Phonology’. She is somewhere between explainer and involver. I think she is explainer try to move on to involver because mostly she tries to teach us by explaining things on the board but she keep try us to involve by activities. But as she teaches us traditionally, she keeps control of everything. The reason why she is the best teacher I have ever had is because she is a teacher who has respect, empathy and authenticity characteristics that Carl Rogers mentioned. She was always positive and non-judgmental regard for another person, tries to see things from the other person’s perspectives and also, she was totally being herself without hiding anything. That made me feel so comfortable but also I was able to concentrate well.

I think the reason why people chose to not study on their own at home with books is to learn mutually. In this respect, I think we should consider about relationship. Teaching-learning process is not just about transmitting knowledge to someone especially those who are adults already have accumulated of knowledge. So teachers should show respect in several aspects and need to have interests to find out what they want to learn and feels. “To be interesting, be interested.” I think if a teacher seem to have interest to students and make them feel that they are respecting them, have interest of their feeling by empathizing will make students feel comfortable and may make them more serious to learn from them. Accordingly I would like to be a teacher who can teach with good skills of teaching but also I want to be a teacher who has interest about student’s feelings and willing.