How can we manage the students?

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People, who ever been to other countries to study the target language, know that the language school has a strict rule about attendance. Especially lazy people have some trouble to manage their time. And sometimes most nationalities were speaking their native language despite during the class. If I will be an English teacher I will meet the students who are late class all the time or don’t speak in English, or both. The teachers have these issues while they work at the school. Now I’d like to talk about my English teachers and how did they managed their class.

When Koreans went to the school most teachers followed Skinner’s Negative Reward or Negative Punishment theory. So if Students were late, the teacher would give the punishment to them. One of interesting is at the England language school was same as Korean school. When I went to an English Language school in England, the school has a penalty about being late. If students were over 10 minutes late, they can’t take a class and wait outside. And if their attendance is lower than 70% they would get a worn and after that it wouldn’t change, they can’t take their whole course. Some teachers followed that rule but my teachers didn’t care how much time the students were late. They just checked the students were late and that’s all. So some students were always late the class but at least they didn’t intentionally absent when they would be late. On the other hand, I heard from friend who took a different classroom, even though her teacher was strict nobody changed their bad habits and sometimes they didn’t come to school because they had already been late so they gave up to go to school. And the school used the Positive Reward secretly. When every student attended perfectly – nobody wasn’t over 10 minutes late and absented, they got some chocolates. However, unfortunately after that, it didn’t work.

Before I take the TESOL course, I just took two kinds of classes which should only speak in English. First one was conversation class which I used to take the class every Saturday in Korea, second one was the General English Course which I used to take the class in the UK. In conversation class, the teacher was native speaker who came from the US. He wasn’t strict and he just managed and taught the twelve of students. The students had already known they should only speak in English, and except they didn’t know some words, they only speak in English at the class. The students were over 24 years old –sometimes younger, but at least over 20 years old- and almost people were working. Although they didn’t get any rewards or punishment during the class, they just followed the rules. In the UK, the teacher wasn’t strict as well. Even though Students spoke in their native language sometimes he just gave a caution. On the other hand the students sometimes spoke in their first language during the class. The average age of students was 20’s and they almost took the class during their school vacation. And they knew although they often said their language, if they didn’t have attendance problems they could get a certification. So sometimes they didn’t care about the rule.

Most of my teachers didn’t strict and they believed that the student attitude as they were not kids. Sometimes it’s work although the teacher didn’t use any Skinner’s method. If students had the motivation or the aim only speaking in English could be possible without any punishments or reward. On the other hand, making students not to late was different. The language school used the Positive Rewards and Negative Punishment but that didn’t work to improve their student attendance – at least that wasn’t getting worse they couldn’t change their bad habits. I suppose people follow the interest things or what they want. And it depends on the student’s personality, the method should be changed and not always use the same method. For example if a student were rude maybe usually I might use the Positive Punishment or Negative Rewards but when the student didn’t do it I would give a reward to the student.

As you see, there is no right method how the students mange to. In particular the more people join one class, the more difficult to manage. I suppose the interest about lecture is the good method to manage the students. John Henrik Clarke said “A good teacher, like a good entertainer first must hold his audience’s attention, and then he can teach his lesson.” It doesn’t mean being a comedian or being an easy going person. I want to be a teacher who has a charisma and funny because I believe that make my class attractive. And I wish I wouldn’t lose my first intentions.