127th WK Essay 2 \_ Isabel

**The Night and Day of Punishment**

“How the students behave depends on the teacher.”

-by my mother

It’s hard to lead a life in fixed rules. But when we have regulations to achieve the purpose that we are assigned by ourselves, it can be a shortcut for our goal. Even when I write an essay, I should follow the rules set by certain standards. Because it can make the people who read this essay understand the topic more clearly. For this reason, most of teachers produce rules for their students. But, although the rules become a great help to the students, sometimes they don’t work well, so it can lead to a bad result, on the contrary to what we expected. Here are the two rules which were set by my two former teachers for the students during their class. I would like to compare their policies and find out what could be the good way for the students.

When I was a middle school student, my English teacher arranged a time for speaking for several minutes. It was quite interesting, but the problem was that we shouldn’t speak in Korean but only in English. Anyway, she was a humorous person and she made some rules for the time. If the students didn’t use English or spoke their native language, she made them sing a song in front of other classmates. Then, other students had to decide if the students could get back to their seats. But if the students didn’t pass their classmates’ screening, the students had to dance as well as sing a song again. However, this way produced another situation that the other students who were in a screening position didn’t let the students who spoke Korean pass the penalty. So my teacher sometimes had to stop them and lead a lecture for us. Despite this fact, the way created a good output because no one wanted to sing or dance in front of their friends for not using English. This rule made us feel embarrassed and that was why we tried to speak English during our talking time. At the end of the semester, most of us could speak English without any sense of shame.

On the contrary, another case is about being late – tardy policy which worked in the worst way, but many teachers in Korea used to prefer taking until recently. In those days, most teachers believed that the physical punishment was the best way for students to follow the policy. As they attested it, in my high school, there was a hard stick called the “rod of love” that teachers always brought with themselves. One of my English teachers was the dean of students. He always had the rod of love and when the students were late for school or classes, he hit their palms with the stick. It was very painful and sometimes it made bruises on the students’ palms. But, in spite of the pain and bruise, some students were always late even on the final test day. Once I asked them the reason why they continued breaking the rules. What they said was very shocking. They said it was worth getting a punishment because they thought they’d rather sleep more than going to school early. Since the punishment was the only one slap. Eventually, some students were tardy for school until the graduation ceremony.

From the former, I find that my teacher didn’t give us only a punishment. Within the rules, we weren’t shy anymore for speaking English. Since singing and dancing generated more embarrassed feelings. Plus we didn’t have to hesitate to speak English only. She made us get closer to English more easily. On the other hand, from the latter, it didn’t give us any feeling that we should follow. Furthermore, the students could have hostility to the physical punishment. Fortunately, most “rod of love” disappeared lately, because many teachers had figured out the disadvantages of it. I think, as the time which can be referred to as different era changed, the teachers got to realize the side-effects.

These days, I usually use the first way to make my students speak English. Of course, my students follow the rules well. Moreover, they even have me sing when I use Korean. But I don’t have any policy for late-tardy students. Actually, I have tried many rules for that, but it didn’t work better than I wanted. When my mother knew that I was searching for the policy for that, she told me to make my lecture more interesting and encourage my students to feel fruitful. I took her advice, and then my students always come to class earlier than me and wait to start the lesson. She also said to me that the teacher could make the students change and how the students behave depends on the teacher. So, I didn’t make the rules for late students. Instead of physical punishments, I prepared a couple of activities that can attract my students’ interest during the class. As my mother thought, my students aren’t late anymore. There’s a saying “Spare a rod, spoil a child”. It’s for sure that the saying could make sense, but the time has changed. As the world has been developed a lot, the method teachers treat their students should be improved in various ways. In conclusion, I am going to be a teacher who approaches students mentally not physically, and who can make them try to correct themselves even though it takes time.