TESOL 129thWD

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I took Chinses 101 and 102 in the college. The teacher was same in two classes; students were different; and I enjoyed both classes equally. I continued to take the Chinese Class after taking 101, because of the preference of the teacher’s characteristics, teaching style, the enjoyable classroom as well as an interest in learning Chinese.

While I learned about characteristics of effective teachers in TESOL course, I ranked high some characteristics that reminded me the teacher whom I learned Chinese in a college. She knew subjects well and communicated clearly both as explainer and listener. The teacher grew up in China and had lived in United States for long time after married American man. This background helped her to develop knowledge of both sides. Understanding the toughness for non-Chinese to get some parts in the class, she listened us patiently and explained them vividly and clearly. This brought her to a trust from students that she gives us right information and was not bothered by our questions. Personally, I, as a foreigner, became respect her more a good life model, who also had been a foreigner once and got a sustainable and successful job as a professor with full confident on her career. The reverence helped me to participate in the class and built my own future image.

. The classroom was both traditional and modern. Mostly ‘Jug-and-mug’ process was operated in the classroom. The teacher poured knowledge into us; we listened her explanation and repeated the Chinese words after she said. Accuracy was more underlined than fluency in the class. She corrected every pronunciation, tone, vocabulary and grammar. Memorizing whole dialogue and passage in the textbook was essential if the student wanted to get a good grade on the test. Surprisingly, this method did help me not only to develop the accuracy but also the fluency. While speaking one word, the full sentence followed behind the word automatically. For example, when I think of ‘mai’ (means ‘buy’), the sentence, “wo yao mai zhe ge dongxi,” (means ‘I need yo buy that thing,’) comes out with it. There is only one weak point for this way of teaching is that if I memorize the sentence mistakenly; i would take long time to fix it. With this traditional teaching, my teacher chose other modern teaching techniques: group assignment, discussion group, experiential learning, and using audio-visual. Students could help each other and practiced the language they learn together. She also set up a social meeting, called “Coffee Hour”, outside of the classroom. It was hold in once a week and gave us a chance to communicate with other Chinese students and adults. Among many activities, the one of most memorable assignments was watching Chinese movie, named *The Flowers of War*. This brought up my interest more in Chinese culture, history and language, and made me excited that I could understand some of words in the film.

Both of two classes had enjoyable atmosphere. However, only Chinese 102 will be mention in this paragraph, because students in this class were more serious about learning. Students in the classroom were in similar ages, had similar lifestyles that most of them lived in a dorm. In addition, this class shared the same motivation that all of the students want to pass the class without too much hardworking. Since most of the students were Chinese Americans, they chose this class as an easy-going one. This is why the enjoyable classroom atmosphere was required and students could focus on the class without much pressure. Thankfully, the teacher gave us the appropriated activities to the students. For example, the group activities were entertaining for students since we had lots of thing to share. The more we built good relationship between one another, the more we participated in the class and spoke out without embarrassment.

Chineses 101 and 102 I took in a college was memorable to me as a fruitful class both in a pleasure and an educational way. In the class, absorbing new information and practicing what I learn was interesting; outside of the class, having fun in speaking Chinese with classmates; and in my dorm, I reviewed to understand and participate better in next class and to interact with and brag myself to friends: this cycle worked for me during whole courses. According to my experience, the conclusion is this: to make a successful class, Teacher, Classmates and I all need to work together.