***<Essay assignment>***

My successful English classroom experience in my schooldays

Name of student: Helen (Sun ock, Lee)

When I was 6th grade’s elementary school student, my father registered me in a private English conversation academy for usually adult learners because he wanted me to be very fluent English speaker. I think it was the most thankful and life changing experience in my whole life.

At that English conversation academy, though I had a very little knowledge and could not speak a lot, I joined the native teacher’s class after finishing Korean teacher’s English class for 2 months. And it was really exciting and interesting for me to meet a real native speaker who could use only English. So, I just tried to speak as much as I can. Because it was fun to listen what he said in another language although my understanding was not 100%perfect. That atmosphere was very exciting and fun and I think it is a typical example of modern classrooms. We communicate each other. And I learned how to communicate and enjoy talking regardless it is grammatically right or not. The teacher just made us speak by asking a question. So, I think I learned a productive skill rather than receptive skill of English by speaking and wanting to talk more and more with foreigner.

But when I went to the middle school in Korea, the English class in my school was very different from that I had in the private English academy. It was focused on the Grammar by each chapter. And the teacher was busy to let us known about each grammar items like past tense, present perfect, passive & active sentence, the components of English sentence etc. And we had to write down and memorize what the teacher taught for our test grades. Therefore we were very easily lost our interest about speaking English and I just did not know why I should learn this grammar formula unlike the English class that I previously experienced. And now I found why those two types of classes were very differently felt to me and there were different types of class and different methodologies in teaching language from my TESOL class. And the one that I had experienced in my private English academy was modern classrooms and used a direct methodology. First, it was taught by only the target language with no translation and linking meaning to Korean. Although I searched the unknown words in my dictionary after the class, I tried to guess what the meaning of the words would be at that moment. Second, only everyday vocabulary and sentences are taught and oral communication was mostly conducted. And it just improved my correct pronunciation, speech and listening skills (Productive skills). Third the grammar was taught inductively. Actually, it was very exciting moment that I had when I learned the original concept of grammar in my traditional class after I were used to using them a lot by speaking in my modern class. I didn’t know the exact concept of that grammar while I’m talking them but it was inductively figured out by using them a lot. And it was clarified exactly in my traditional English classroom. And I just focused on learning them, not for getting the higher score than others. And that made me very interested in English subject comparing to other students who should study for their high score in the test. So I think this kind of modern classroom and direct methodology for teaching English should be very well praised and applied more and more for most English classes in Korea. Thank you.