**My life**

**as a TESOL Certified English Communication Facilitator**

Written by Choi  
 131th WE Class

I enrolled Times TESOL 8 weeks ago. It was so fascinating thing to me that I couldn’t believe it.

I worked as a KUMON teacher about 6 years and I didn’t have time to rest and study only English. There were lots of marking and gave feedback to each student after teaching KUMON textbook. So KUMON teacher can’t take a rest even if they don’t have classes to teach. We mainly teach elementary school students and middle students using KUMON textbooks. I felt that this is too tired to do the same thing over and over again. So I determined to change my job.

There is the reason why I wanted to study TESOL. About 18 years ago, I had worked for the foreign company named TOTAL Company when Korea was under the control of IMF. TOTAL bought Korean company. So I could get a job. When I worked at this company, I needed to speak and write in English. I could write in English but I couldn’t speak in English. I always wanted to learn more of English. After marriage I just quit the job and raised two babies. But I still want to learn more English. And then when my son was 2nd grade in elementary school I got the job as a KUMON teacher. I worked till late night. When I was in thirties, I didn’t have any problems working late. I was young and healthy. My husband helped a lot with housework. But as time went by, the job felt boring and I felt it was just waste of my time. I thought I just work for the money itself.

In Korea, raising two children in Seoul costs a lot of money. However, I decided to improve my teaching skills, not only in Korean but also in English. That is why I enrolled in the TESOL center. I passed the test. As an English communication facilitator, I would like to teach students how to think in English, speak in English and express themselves in English. I really wanted to understand the lessons in English because I know my English is just about intermediate level. It was half of expectation and half of worry. My husband recommended me to take the class. It was not just learning English but also learning how to teach English through communicative ways. I gave up my family time on the weekends for 8 weeks. I was away from my family from 2 to 10 on Saturday and from 10 to 6 on Sunday. The course was quite expensive too.

At the first day, I couldn’t understand what the professor said and what the lessons were. But I did what the teacher said. And the next day the professor asked students to come out and have a presentation. It was very awesome for me to have a presentation in English. I am very accustomed to the Korean way of learning English. It was not an easy thing to stand in front of other classmates and have a presentation in English. I wanted to give up and really I was absent in the third week. But the professor called me and encouraged me that I can do it. Midterm and making a lesson plan were not easy for me. I just thought about the studying English in TESOL class. After the first class, I realized TESOL class is not about improving my English skills. It is all about learning how to teach English using communicative ways. Studying teaching skills of English was a new area. I wrote a lesson plan of Listening and Speaking. I had hard time writing the plan. The professor helped and encouraged me a lot. Since there are many women in the class I decided the topic as Dating and it seemed that they really enjoyed it. I was so happy at that time. I realized I had to study more after the first Micro-Teaching. The next reading plan was waiting for me in the following weekend. I didn’t decide the topic but soon I decided the topic as sustainable development. But I realized the topic was too difficult that I didn’t make the lesson plan well .I didn’t have enough time to care for the plan because of the hard topic.

Listening and Speaking plan was the first lesson plan so I just prepared it as practice. But the reading plan seemed very hard. And the presentation time came and I had my second Micro-Teaching class. But the professor said that I needed to prepare the lesson in more communicative way and it was a difficult topic. At that time, I felt that I need to improve my English skills more. The next lesson plan was for grammar. After teacher’s lesson, it seemed very unfamiliar to me because as a Korean we do not learn the grammar in communicative way. The substitution table drilling looked more comfortable for English learners. And the way of drawing on the timeline was good to me. I want to use it if I teach students English. I tried to put teacher’s lesson in my grammar lesson plan and the professor said it was good for students to communicate in English. I was so happy but I know I have to study more about the English. I could tell that I had a lot of change for the last 7 weeks. It was a good chance to study with the good students and I want to study more and more. I want to be a teacher to the students who want to learn a lot from me. I think I didn’t study abroad and I cannot speak English well. However, becoming a good English teacher is not all about language itself. There are more to give students. I want my students to be happy in my class. I want to encourage them to speak English without hesitating. Making mistakes is alright.

Now I am 42 years old. It is not easy to work as an English communication facilitator at this moment. But taking TESOL class and receiving the certification is the first step to become an English communication facilitator. I want my dream come true and someday it will come true. I determined I will finish the TESOL class well. And I am about to graduate from this class. So I am so happy now. I want to thank Frank and Julie teacher.