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My Learning Experience

TESOL139

Teacher: Jasmine

Name: Mi Jang (Mia)

The chance of learning English as a second language came to me as a gift suddenly at the time I about to graduate from high school. Thanks to the failure of SAT in Korea, it leaded me to study abroad. Since I didn’t speak English at all, I had to take ESL classes first. There were about more a hundred international students from all different kinds of countries just like me. So, we all had to speak English only either we can speak or not. Even though I started from beginner level, I reached to the highest ESL class level which is an advanced class, then took all the required regular courses in university and finally graduated.

A variety of activities for lesson has been done by us. In order to develop the verbal, linguistic and intrapersonal intelligence, teacher had us to write a dairy everyday as homework. With the starting of every next day’s class, we all had a short time to pass it around reading it in turns. Moreover, for kinesthetic intelligence, 5 students including me videotaped ourselves acting. Each of us had individual character to play and made the scrip by our own. I still can’t forget how embarrassed we were but interesting it was when acting. Sometimes when the weather was nice, we went to field trip to see what’s important in that town near the school. It gave us enthusiasm with a little break, so we were able to be more energetic and focus on learning later on. It obviously helped me to realize how important it is to keep up the good work continuously. In terms of the four basic language skills which are reading, writing, listening and speaking, picking up one news article on the Internet, summarizing it, and then presenting in front of all the classmates were given as the way to learn as well. Teacher had us to do something actively rather than giving us a lecture. According to the average learner retention rates, lecturing is ranked as the lowest percentage other than teaching and mentoring others is ranked as the highest percentage. That is why I still remember these kinds of activities I have done on what and how I did in the class. Teacher was like a facilitator rather than a leader. The class was progressed more likely as student-centered, not teacher-centered. In this way, we felt comfortable and relaxed while learning. Throughout these kinds of learning activities, the second language environment that I have experienced was definitely a success as a language learning experience.

Overall, the times I spent on learning English as a second language in the United States was extremely valuable and meaningful. Even though I haven’t been speaking and using English for more than 3 years after back in Korea, I was able to verify my English skill has not been gotten that worse when I traveled Europe last month. Through my learning experiences, English became a part of my life. I would like to keep learning deeply with the faith that my valuable time spending on it would be paid off someday.