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**The reasons why**

**I am still studying English**

TESOL139

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It has been 15 years since I began to learn English. I want to say that a second language environment that I have experienced was not bad but the most important things were missed.

The first one is that I was tired of being graded in school. The second one is that I couldn’t be exposed the environment that I can communicate in English fully.

When I was 10 years old I started to study English in school. It was a traditionalclassroom not a modern classroom. Most of the teachers taught the students as explainers. At home, my mother bought me some English audiotapes which consist of children’s story recorded by native English speakers. It was good start and I enjoyed learning English and making simple English sentences by myself. Although many English teachers that I met in elementary school were explainers I could learn new pop-songs and do many fun activities with my friends.

Until now I can remember my homeroom teacher in fifth grade. Actually she was not kind teacher for students but the reason why I am mentioning about her is that she gave me motivation to be interested in other languages and countries. It is said that good teachers should know how to give motivation. I really agree with it and the teachers also have to respect different types of intelligences of students. It will help teachers understand students and learn how to encourage them rather than just share knowledge.

After I entered the middle school I recognized that English was not an enjoyable subject anymore. This is because I had to take quizzes and exams a lot. There were too many written tests. For example, word tests in every single class, listening tests, performance assessments, mid-term exam and final exam. Everything about English was graded by tests and associated with results. It made me feel too uncomfortable or nervous to acquire the second language. English was not a language for me but just the subject to study hard.

There was a native-speaking instructor once for one semester. She tried to be an enabler or an involver for students and communication. It was failed because it was totally impossible for them to be communicators in a short time. So I think teachers should be prepared about teaching as a long-term plan and a step by step process. They should also think about the environment including tools, aids, seating and teaching strategies for effective teaching.

For effective teaching, there are three important things for teacher to keep in mind, empathy, authenticity and respect. I am sure that teachers having these can be a perfect teacher and then affect students’ study positively. Honestly, it is difficult to have these all. However, it is best way teachers can help their students to feel comfortable when they are acquiring a second language.

In high school, my favorite teacher was English teacher. She looked professional when she was teaching English in a class and tried to understand the students’ situation. She showed us empathy and respect for us. This is why I liked her and began to like English again.

As a student not in Seoul, in Korea it was not usual to have enough opportunities to communicate in English in school with native speakers. That’s why at first time I had hard time to communicate in English in the university. I was afraid of talking in English with my partner and teachers at 19 years old. At that time I had to worry about that what I did study from 10 years old to 19 years old.

Nowadays, many schools are changing to be modern classroom which is described as group work, teacher as a facilitator, student-centered class and focusing on communication. It also helps to make better environment to acquire a second language for students. Unfortunately I still have not acquired English which is my second language so I am studying it for about 15 years. I can’t blame only the environment but we need to improve it for using the language when we need it.