Opinions about

Traditional vs Modern Classrooms

TESOL Class # 137WD

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**Introduction**

I’m going to share my experiences of language learning when I lived in Philippines and my opinion about traditional vs modern classrooms through my experiences.

Definitions of traditional and modern classrooms are referring to the textbook.

(Scrivener. J(2011) – Learning and Teaching)

I lived in Philippines when I was young, just for about half a year, but it was an unforgettable memory through whole my life.

There were several reasons why my parents sent me to Philippines, but mainly I went there to study English, so I entered a language school and studied hard.

The teaching system of language school was great. It was really good for students who want to learn English quickly. All the students have their own time tables, and in every class has different teachers. They have less than 5 students in one classroom, and all the students should take at least one man to man class.

At first day of language school, I got a shock.

In my learning experience in Korea, as a student, there were lacks of choices or none. Even in private educational institute, they only have 2 choices, to take the class or not. And most of the time, they just lecturing, students should just listen to it and make some notes, that’s all.

But in language school I went, they also have rules, curriculums and textbooks, but they asked me to choose whether I follow it or not, and if I choose not to follow, they let me make a decision what to do during class. It doesn’t mean that I can do everything during class time, but it still was amazing to me.

I tried to do a lot of things during class time, because I thought reading and studying textbook is also possible in Korea. I do activities as much as I can, not to break the rules. And it helped me a lot to improve my English skills and make good memories.

I really did a lot of things, let me just introduce some of it. During man to man class, I often went out with my teacher just to use English to a person who didn’t know exactly. I also tried to dictate CNN with my teacher. Sometimes do some icebreakers with other teachers and students, and also play scrabble or do crossword puzzles with or without dictionary, do some board games, etc. It really was fun, and it was also helpful for me to think that learning language is fun.

Nonetheless, I don’t think modern classrooms are always good and traditional one is bad. As a person who experienced both, I think it should be balanced.

Traditional ones have their own strong points. You can get a lot of information in a very short time, and for some students who don’t want to do a lot of things during class, it is more helpful to hear the lecture then to do activities.

But the point is, I think in Korea, unfortunately, we fail to keep a balance.

To learn a language, we need to speak a little more, and to do some things that can make interest, especially for kids, but I think we only have little chances to do such activities. And it’s not just a matter of a teacher.

I hope it can be changed. I know some people try to change it and it works sometimes, but it is still hard. I hope to have a chance to do something to make differences.

* Jim Scrivener (2011) Learning Teaching The Essential Guide to English Language Teaching