Two examples of second language environment

TESOL Class #137

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Most Koreans want to learn second language and be good at it. Many parents are eager to let their children study second language. As for my personal experience, my parents wanted me to study Chinese. They believe that learning Chinese language will be very helpful for me in the future. So when I was 14, my parents sent me to the China to study abroad.

When I was in China, I had been through many teachers. They all have different ways of teaching. Some are good, some are bad, and others are neither good nor bad. I am going to compare two language learning environment that I have taken before and relate my personal beliefs of teaching. These two different methods of teaching are described in the following paragraph.

First one is the traditional class which was the worst experience of my life. I had taken the class when I was in Chinese middle school. It was a Chinese literature class. The teacher of this class was too strict with her students. She forced her students to memorize all sentences of book and tested them. If a student didn’t memorize sentence or pay attention in her class, he or she got punishment. There was no collaboration and group learning. It was totally teacher-centric classroom. The teacher chalks so many things on the board and solves problem by herself. Students found that her teaching system is not helpful for learning Chinese literature effectively. So my classmates and I claimed change teacher of the class to school, but they didn’t listen to us.

Second one is the modern class which worked on me. It was about four years ago. I was attending at the English academy in China. First of all, the teacher was kind to all the students. He loved being called on to help students solving questions. Various materials are provided to students. He showed multiple forms to students in order to widen their knowledge. And he didn’t forget funny jokes which make the class more exciting. He emphasized organizing a study group among the students, so they could collaborate and cooperate with each other. And he made good use of computer, checked on-line review all the time and received feedback about the class. He always understood and empathized students’ feeling and encouraged us to make a step forward.

As the result, we can see through comparison that the effective way of teaching is modern classroom. These two examples might be too extreme, but it is clear that there exist great gaps between traditional and modern classroom. More and more students want teachers who have open thoughts. In these days, most of students can handle computers and internet stuff. So if teachers stick to the old ways of teaching, they could never be keeping up with times

In conclusion, there is one more thing I’m going to emphasize. I think the most important part of the second language environment is teacher’s role. I believe it determines success or failure.