Was I a Good English Speaker?

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I traveled to Europe with my friend when I was a university student. At that time, the most difficult thing was speaking and listening with foreigners in English. I didn’t expect I would have been struggling with English. I wanted to talk to people, but I couldn’t. After that, I had thought about my English and my English learning experience.

I learned English since I was an elementary school student. In public school, we were not allowed to learn English. There was no an English subject or a English teacher. My parents made me learn phonic by private education. It was pretty interesting. I would like to learn English. But unfortunately my parents couldn’t afford to pay for it any longer due to that program being too expensive. I could learn phonic about one year. I graduated my elementary school. I just wanted to speak English well and have a conversation with foreigners in English. I thought I could make it if I learned English in public middle school.

When I got to middle school, the English lesson was very different than I expected. The teacher who was an explainer teacher used only a text book. After the teacher read out the sentence, we repeated after the teacher. After that, the teacher explained about grammar and vocabulary. We had to write down the teacher’s sayings. I felt the teacher talked all day long, and we listened all day long. It was very boring, because TTT was at the top, STT was at the bottom. There was not any interaction and rapport. We just needed our two eyes, ears and hands to write. The teacher never checked whether we understood or not, such as ICQ. The teacher just tested us and enjoyed giving us low scores, taking us apart from evaluation process.

High school lesson was not different either. If anything, it was worse. Teachers in public and in private academy started teaching us how to pick up the answers as fast as we could. The English test for university was based on listening, grammar and especially reading. We had to pick the answer as soon as possible, due to there being a bunch of questions and not enough time for it. I was not interested in English anymore. I got tired of learning English. English was too many words and difficult grammar. The only better thing was that I studied English very hard to get a good score for getting a better university. I tried to memorize more words and idioms.

I have learned about English more than 10 years. And actually, I was pretty good to get good scores for tests. Because I got good scores from tests, I had thought of myself as a good English speaker and no one doubted it. Besides, the chance of talking to foreigners takes place rarely. Even if I got a chance to talk to foreigners, it was normally about simple directions and that made me think that I was pretty good at English. But, while I was traveling abroad, I discovered I barely could speak English. I could say that the teaching method was not good to make me a good English speaker. I wish I could learn English by a better method.