**My Dream as a Teacher of English Learners**

KNT145 Euna Joung

On the first day of the TESOL class, I was still not sure that I really wanted to be a teacher of English learners, but on the second day, I realized that my decision to take the TESOL class was a great decision that I have ever made. Learning about how to teach English has been fascinating for me because the point of view for approaching English was different from when I was a student. Also, the class reminded me of the first moment when I took ‘Gender Studies’ in the University because I got a clear understanding about why I could not use English in the Korean education system. I believe that I haven’t had many questions to the Korean education system such as gender roles. Because for people who are socialized in a certain environment for a long time, it becomes difficult to ask the question ‘Why?’ to the system where they grew up. I was taught English in an impractical way in the Korean public education system when I was young. By understanding a non-practical way to learn English from the Korean education system, I gained certain goals as a teacher of English, which I will describe below. I believe that these goals will be related to the great impact that I will have in the future as a teacher for English learners.

There could be many different types of teachers that I can be in the future, but imagining the great impact that I will have as a teacher of English on my students is still not easy to come up with in my mind. However, I can confidently say that the impact that I will have is ‘empathy’ for my students as a typical Korean who struggled with using English. I had a hard time using English although I got a good score in the test because I was in the Korean education system. Additionally, I never learned how to use English in Korea until I lived in California. By understanding these difficulties, I will be a teacher who hopes to have a great impact on my students.

The second great impact that comes to my mind is to be influential on a student’s life in a positive way. When I was in a graduate program in California, I worked at the international office as an assistant, so I had many chances to communicate with many international students in the English training program. By communicating with them, I noticed that students from Europe, South America, and Saudi Arabia were very different from students from Asia. They were constantly speaking in English although they did not know how to speak in English, while students from Asia were quiet in general. In a few months, the improvement in speaking ability between these students was obvious. Students from non-Asian countries became very fluent in speaking but interestingly, they failed the test, so they stayed one level below for a while. In contrast, Asian students moved up to a higher level in a short time, but still had a lack of fluency on speaking. I believe that the differences between students are based on being confident, which comes from their own culture. Unfortunately, despite higher scores, Asian students had a more challenging time to adjust in California and to communicate with people in English. I reformulated this fact clearly from the TESOL class. This lack of confidence came from being afraid to make mistakes. Therefore, to be influential on their life in a positive way, I am going to boost up their confidence. By supporting and leading them not to be afraid to make a mistake, I am going to be a teacher who gives a positive impact on my students’ life.

The third impact that I will have in my future is to be influential on my students’ developing self-trust. Before I decided to be a teacher for English learners, my dream was a researcher who dealt with many different types of methodologies such as qualitative, quantitative and experimental methods. I tried my best for my dream to be true, and it became true in Korea. I was very happy to work in the research field. I worked with many clients from the U.S, India, Canada, Germany, and France, who would like to find out a potential market for their products in Korea. I really enjoyed working as a researcher except the extreme working hours, but there was no doubt that I could make it because this job was always what I dreamed about. However, I never knew that my dream ended up in an unexpected situation. One day, I heard that one of my directors from the Dajeon Branch was discovered passed out on the way back to his home. Unfortunately, he passed away in a few weeks. The cause was a stroke. However, we all knew that he was overwhelmed for too many projects and ended up in death because of the stress. I was very shocked because he was the first person who gave me sincere advice and trusted me to handle projects. Whenever I worked with him, he always cheered me up a lot. I did handle projects because he trusted that I could do it successfully. I still really appreciate him for giving a chance to develop self-trust and making a chance to find my new career as a teacher. Therefore, based on my experience, I do understand how important self-trust is and would like to be a teacher who is influential on students’ developing self-trust to reach their goal successfully.

The last impact that I will have in my future is to empower students to look for their goal without borders. I would like to empower students to go abroad where the possibility for them is. Korea is too competitive of a society, so I want my students to be happier in their life based on the place where plentiful resources are available to enjoy their life and dream. We all believe that knowing how to use English will be a powerful tool for students to have their career in another country. Therefore, I will help my students to be empowered through learning and using English for their bright future.

Thank you for your time to read my essay.