**My Life As A TESOL Certified English Communication Facilitator**

KNT 145 Final Essay Gowoon Jung

How do I make English learning easy and simple? Is English a subject to be studied just like Science and other subjects?

I always thought that it will not be simple for students to speak English as easily as their mother tongue. I have been wondering how I, as an English teacher, am supposed to make it happen. Can it ever be achieved? Can learning a foreign language be done in an easy way?

The California State University at Long Beach Times Media Kangnam TESOL center class helped me a lot in several ways. The first month of the TESOL class helped me with refining my philosophy as an English teacher and learning the methodologies behind English teaching. The most important lessons that I have learned so far are as follows. Always teacher centered first and move on to elicit stories from students. Correct errors in a subtle and less offensive way. Influence students to make a conversation in English.

During the last month of the TESOL class, we focused on Micro-Teaching and presenting ourselves as a teacher. Before I even got started, I was nervous and was not confident enough as I had never taught English in English and in an ESL way. Also, writing a lesson plan was unfamiliar to me and thus very challenging at the beginning. However, as I start working on lesson plans, I found it very useful. Writing a lesson plan helped me to be well organized and prepared for the lesson.

I have gained confidence in delivering lectures in English and realized how to make students speak out in English and learn English at the same time. Now that I am done with three Micro-Teaching (Speaking, Reading and Grammar), it seems like I have gained the basic understandings of the ways in teaching English in an easy and enjoyable way. Especially, I learned that teaching Grammar can be effective when students are involved in an activity and encouraged to speak out using the target language. Not only did my practice in teaching help me a lot, but also listening to the lectures of other teachers was very helpful. I got various brilliant ideas from one another, which I think will be my precious asset.

The vision of my life is “I will help people around the world with my attraction, knowledge and skill.” That was the reason why I chose to be an English teacher as my job, which I have passion for. But then, I felt something missing because the way I teach was not how I learned English when I was young. I learned English in a more natural way, though inaccurate, because I moved to Singapore when I was young. I first gained fluency and studied to increase my accuracy. The reason I enrolled the TESOL class was that I wanted to learn how to teach English in a more natural way.

Through my 8-week experience in TESOL class, I gained an understanding of it. I am now different from what I was before taking this class and finally made up my mind to be an English communication facilitator. I decided to be an English conversation teacher for adults from this year. I am flexible and open to any opportunity and I think I am ready to be either an everyday or business related conversation teacher or both.

In order to achieve my dream, I will make some lesson plans before the interviews and materials about them. I will make sure to collect and organize many useful words and phrases related to the topic. Most importantly, I will make sure to analyze what parts of English that Koreans have difficulty with. I thought it was grammar that Koreans are strong at, but after listening to many conversations Korean students are making; I realized that I got it all wrong. To my surprise, Koreans were very poor at some certain and important grammar and tended to use difficult words instead of simple ones. Korean people are also very serious and tend to think that having activities in class is a waste of time. Also Koreans think studying is all about memorizing. I hope that I can break the norms and get rid of their stress by providing helpful and fun lessons filled with many enjoyable activities.

However, I noticed that in the TESOL way of teaching, we do not focus too much on details and seems like we are restricting our ability to learn more details, which can be dangerous in business settings. If a communication is inaccurate in business settings, the slightest misunderstanding can lead a corporation to financial difficulties. You may also give bad impressions of the corporation if the representative of the firm speaks language in an inaccurate way.

Throughout our Micro-Teaching, I honestly did not understand every detail of the Grammar lessons that my peers had given. I know the focus is to facilitate speaking and we learn English as a means to communication, but as I mentioned above, I think it is also very important to be accurate and fluent at the same time.

To solve the problem, I will combine the good points of the Korean way of methodology (which is ‘accuracy’) and TESOL methodology (which emphasizes ‘fluency’). I believe that Koreans are accustomed to the “lecture” type of class and I think it will work better if I combine the two methodologies.

I surely need time and experience to successfully make my own methodology settled. Probably, I will deal with all the four language skills in a single class. Accuracy is heightened when a writing activity is involved. Fluency is enhanced when speaking and listening activities are involved in it. That way, I can effectively teach English language in a more natural way.

Teaching English is surely going to lead me to achieving my life vision and consequently to happiness. I am wholeheartedly happy to gain understandings through the lesson provided by California State University at Long Beach Times Media Kangnam TESOL center class. I will make sure that I create my own methodology and be an outstanding English facilitator in the near future.