My Life as a TESOL Certified English Communication Facilitator

## KNT45 Final Essay Eve Jiwon Park

I can clearly remember the first day of the California State University at Long Beach Times Media Kangnam TESOL Center Class Number 145. I was nervous to meet new people. Also I was afraid that I thought I would be the worst one in the class, because I did not have the confidence towards English even though I wanted to be an English teacher. However, everyone in the class were heartwarming, cheerful and wonderful people. I also remember the day I become a class captain for Class No.145. I did not expect to be a class captain, because everyone seems to be perfect to me. I felt uncomfortable being a class captain and I was curious why I was selected. However, the environment (wonderful peer instructors and great TESOL instructors) changed me. On my first Essay, I wrote “one of my problems that I am struggling with” are self-trust and confidence. If someone asks me what I gained from the course, I can proudly say that the best things I have gained from the class is self-trust and confidence of English teaching. This does not mean that I am an expert or perfect teacher, as I do not have any real experience on teaching yet. This means with a mistake, I do not feel guilty and I am willing to improve myself. This is my main successful outcome.

During the course, I learnt many ways to teach students via the TESOL instructor, Frank Chavis, and my classmates. Frank always said the purpose of knowing English is communication with others, so students should not feel like they are learning something like school subjects such as science or mathematics. First time, I liked what Frank said as what he said was how I learnt English. However, by applying in the real lesson was very difficult. On my first micro teaching, I figured out that my teaching style was more like teacher-centered even though I hate this type. When I read through the evaluation sheets that other people wrote to me, my lesson lacking in communicative activities. I got shocked and I wondered why they wrote that. I gradually understood my problems through Frank’s personal feedback and looking at other people’s lesson. By watching others, I can find what to do and what to not do, because when I do demonstrate my lesson, it is hard to realize what I am actually doing. Until my last micro teaching, Frank gave more advices than compliments. I understood what he advised me, hence I wanted to get compliments. After finishing my final micro teaching, I felt myself confidence and also TESOL instructor, Frank, said that it was a great lesson. When I heard that, I was so happy and I felt like I achieved some knowledge of teaching skills and classroom management. From micro teaching, I have gained how to teach and how to manage the lesson.

I think my teaching methodology plan has changed slightly as I learnt many new skills to operate the lesson however my mottos are still similar from the beginning of the class. I, as a TESOL Certified English Communication Facilitator, should always remember myself is “Do not think you are the expert to teach and always improve yourself” and also treat the students all equally. I learnt how to manage the classroom in effectively and how to make communicative class with many fun activities throughout the TESOL class. By using same mottos, I will try many different communicative activities and improve myself better and better on each lesson.

My future plans in the short run are applying what I learnt to the real world. I got a job offer in the kindergarten starting next week. My aim is use at least 60 percent of my new skills to train myself that hopefully turn me into a good effective teacher. In a long run, my plan or goal is having my private English kindergarten and being a “good” communicative teacher who loves kids and also teaching not just being a manager. Before taking TESOL, I only thought about being a pre-school or a kindergarten teacher. I thought my abilities are only suitable for that age. Also I liked the kids. However participating in TESOL class changed me. As TESOL course is based on teaching for general adults, I think it would be good to teach older people not just little children. If there is a chance I would challenge myself to teach adults or middle-high school students who want to know how to communicate in English. I am so thankful to the TESOL course to give more variety options to think about in my future career.

Being a teacher was my dream since when I was young, but learning to be a teacher was a challenge to me. By attending to California State University at Long Beach Times Media Kangnam TESOL Center Class Number 145, I learnt the most valuable thing in my life as this is my first step to achieve my dream. Sometimes, it was so stressful but sometimes, it was so wonderful to be a part of the class. If I compare my teacher’s life as a human’s life, I am a just a newborn baby and I know bad things are waiting to attack me out there in real life, however I believe there will be many other good things that it will help me to achieve my goals. I am so glad I could meet other wonderful instructors here, I hope I could continue contact with them forever in my life and we, as a class number 145, could improve over times and be great effective teachers.