My Language Learning Experiences

153th TESOL, Ellie

May 13th, 2017

I have studied English since I was an elementary student. I had a lot of English

teachers in my life and they all had different skills and methods to teach. Hence, I will share about my experiences I had. There were some effective ways to learn and some ineffective ways to learn, too.

There are three effective ways for me to learn. Basically, I am a both visual and auditory learner. When my teacher showed me powerpoints that had charts or graphs, I could understand easily about the contents. One of my teachers use powerpoints to explain eight parts of speech. She taught me not only every part of speech’s use but connection between those through pictures. Before that, I didn’t have any clear ideas about part of speech. So, because of powerpoint I knew surely how those things work in the sentences. Next, as learner retention showed, “Teaching” also worked well. When I studied in California, I had to present to others about a topic we studied in grammar class. As I prepared my speech, I should remember every detail. That helps me a lot learn English grammar. I hardly forgot the topic I explained. Since I am teaching grammar to my students now, I feel much more comfortable with my grammar. Lastly, listen and repeat activities were effective. I am pretty good at listening things. At the same time I am also good at memorizing words or contents temporarily, not permanently. Therefore, I should exercise through listening and repeating verbally. If someone like to speak, speaking can be a great method to learn language. Because I am the one who likes to speak English, it worked well.

There were two ineffective ways to learn English. First, I think it applies almost students who learn English. The way is learning through “JUST” listening what teacher said. In my high school days, there was a teacher who always looks down on his textbook and kept reading his book. That looks both nonprofessional and inefficient. Therefore, we had to study English ourselves, which was pretty hard. Sometimes we went to the teachers’ office to ask questions to another English teacher. What’s more, the teacher didn’t check that we are on the same page so far. As the grammar was so hard to understand, we couldn’t get those at once. The another ineffective way was discussion. Probably, it is important for the teamwork or the creativity. On the other hand, whenever I had to discuss about some topics, I didn’t get enough time to think about. The time limit bothered me a lot. If I need to speak in formal and logical way, I need a plenty time to consider. Also, I got so nervous when I didn’t prepare enough opinions or reasons for the topic. Most of discussion class usually didn’t let me prepare fully. Hence, I couldn’t have any logics or structures in my speech, while others did pretty good job. I don’t mean every discussion class was useless, but most of them were ineffective to me.