I am going to talk about a little bit of Chinese language learning experience from high school and mainly my English language learning experience from the most ineffective way to the best effective one I was taught.

My Chinese class high school teacher often played famous Chinese song that most people might have heard from movies such as ‘Tian Mi Mi’ from ‘Almost a love story’ and we had to remember some part and sing. If someone volunteered, she gave good marks. Because I had musical strength and I was pleased to sing, it was effective for me because remembering song lyrics was my kind of thing.

I could help but took many of traditional English classes before. One of them was the ESL program at Pace university for the first time in America. The class was mostly controlled by the teacher whose teaching style was pretty much ‘explainer’ and there was no group activity during the session. The students mostly had to work individually.

Even though she was a mature experienced teacher and knew subjects very well but the lack of participation of the students and all the teacher-centered lectures made the whole class demotivated and often bored. As I have an interpersonal strength, if she gave us a group assignment or activity, not only it would have formed nicer class atmosphere but also encouraged me to study harder.

I felt I needed my environment to be more active, I changed school which provided a smaller group of classes expecting I could have more chance to communicate with people. The teacher who had a good sense of humor used real people’s life story to teach us vocabulary. Also, he let us demonstrate our knowledge and experience in front of the classmates about anything we were interested in, such as how to style your hair or find a cheaper flight ticket to trip on next vacation or not to lose your money at Casino.

For the good rapport he developed, I was not that anxious making mistakes when I had to talk in front of everyone in the class although back then I was just a false beginner in speaking. Only 2 weeks later, I could find myself much more confident when I communicated with anyone even from the street. I think this case could support the Affective filter hypothesis. Thought, it could have been even nicer if he were not an ‘Involver’ because he called students to tell instead of sharing control of the class with them.

When I came back to my school from United States, I took a debate class and the rule was everyone had to speak English only during the class. The students did not have a choice to pick a side. It was random at every topic. Everybody was given half an hour to prepare their speech and protest against others’ opinion. Since there was no team work so that might have hindered me because I would identify myself with a well-developed interpersonal intelligence but it was good. Because I considered the debate as a role play and acted as a person who opposed abortion, for instance.

I am so happy to be in TESOL class. As I am an auditory learner, especially cooperative learning activities are very effective for me. For example, throughout the activity “yes, I have done that!”, I could communicate with people just met and felt comfortable like I was back to elementary school because it reminded me I was very excited about talking with new classmates on the first date of the new semester. I would like to agree more with Steven Krashen hypothesis than Noam Chomsky’s. And it could be one of the most important things for adult learner to be in similar environment they had fun when they were young and situation they wanted to talk.

From all of my experience in learning English, I feel finally I am being taught by the most effective ways. As much as I am very motivated like now, I want to encourage my classmates as well.