Have you ever watched the movie titled “Dead Poets Society”? It is a very famous movie about “Teacher”, which is the story about a new English teacher “John Keating” of a group of junior year at private school for boys. He inspires his students to look at poetry with a different perspective of authentic knowledge and feelings through his own unique teaching skills. This movie shows how teachers have a strong influence on the students in their life and thought. I also experienced the importance of teachers and teaching skills. Sometimes teachers give the things that I think were helpful and sometimes it is not. I would like to describe these two experiences with the Language and Learning module that have been learned so far in the class. The teacher who gives helpful things was the English teacher in Australia. On the other hand, the teacher who gives unhelpful things was the Japanese teacher when I was in the college. When two teachers are compared, they are totally different with the three things which are ‘Language skills”, ‘Traditional vs. Modern Teaching” and “Teaching style’.

First of all, the English teacher always wanted students to learn English with various ways. Once she gave the dialogue, I listened to it, expected what it meant and read it. After then, she gave the time to think about it deeply, classmates had the conversations, role plays or debates with her directions. Furthermore, I did writing homework after finishing the class with the same subject. The Japanese teacher gave only simple directions, made the students read vocabulary, sentence. I had to memorize the words for test the following class. The English teacher approached learning language with the intergrated-skill, but the Japanese teacher used only receptive skills.

Secondly, the Japanese teacher gave the lecture by using explanation, textbook and some handouts of words and grammar. Students just listened what she was saying and took notes. Sometimes they asked the questions only about the test. On the contrary, the English teacher had the students do a lot of activities during the class. Whenever students finished it, she asked “How was your group activities?” or “What was different and same opinion from other classmates and partners? etc. Through those questions, students could participate in the class more as well as focus on the speaking and listening. Even though some students were shy to speak English in front of other students, she encouraged them to speak with attention and compliment. The former was ‘Traditional teaching’, the latter was ‘Modern teaching’.

Lastly, Two classes indicates different teaching style. The Japanese teacher could be ‘Explainer’. She was an expert of Japanese focused on Customer service. As it was mentioned before, she relied on explanation or lecture. Students mostly were listening and wrote down the important vocabulary, idioms and grammar for the test. The English teacher was a kind of ‘Enabler’. The most memorable part was the debate with classmates, I have still remembered the class. Students read the article of the latest news, there were pros and cons about the topic after reading. The teacher helped them to make the team, leader to debate by themselves. I and classmates had time to talk about each opinion and ideas are able to refute. At that time, the teacher took a step back from students and if they had any questions, she answered. She acted as a guide, and created an autonomous condition and atmosphere.

In conclusion, According to different language skills and teaching style, it would be decided it was helpful or unhelpful to students. Of course, I had different interest, motivation and goals in the two cases, but the teacher was very important to me, because I have still remembered not only the contents but also atmosphere of the English course even teacher’s jokes. Moreover, I could improve my English ability and have confidence to speak English with foreigners thanks to her.