The importance of educational environment

TESOL 163

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As we all know, English is the official language of the world. I have studied English since I was third grade of elementary school. But I did not speak even one sentence in English as most of students in Korea. I spent a lot of time on study to be received an acceptance for admission to university, but could not speak English in cramming education environment.

When I was young, most of Korean teachers had a traditional teaching style. The teachers mainly explain or lecture to the students like an explainer. Most of students were listening and occasionally answering questions, but did not personally involved.

Teaching techniques the teacher used based on lecture and reading was not effective to get remembering deeply. Audio visual which is better for learner retention was not really dealt with at that. Study from traditional teaching was to pass an exam, but not really used in real situation when we needed.

For instance, when students are in the situation that a native speaker of English is asking the way to the station, they could not explain the way using even one basic word. The example proves that traditional teaching style is inefficient to improve student's English speaking and listening skills. Whereas the traditional teaching does not really helpful for speaking and listening skills, it helps to improve reading and writing skills which have the rule of the use.

When I was a graduating senior in university, I finally decide to go study abroad in Canada. I was surprising that teachers had a totally different teaching style compared to the past after attending the first class.

 Teachers had a modern teaching style which is based on communicative focus. Teachers were more likely a manager or facilitator side rather than an explainer. They made students are active participants under variety of activities and group works in the class. Teachers were trying to involve the students activities that will do this while they also explain clearly similar to my current teacher Jasmine.

For instance, one of my English teacher in Canada was being generally friendly to students. She understand the importance of establishing a close rapport with students. All students spent time to get to know each other after the class with her. We informally practiced by speaking while we are doing a group activity which is my favorite spare time. This activity helps student’s retention, therefore we all could be good at memorizing the expressions that we used.

In my opinion, the lessons that I had in Canada contain the integrated-skill approach which is covering all language skills. Although students need to acquire productive skills which are speaking and writing, we also need to spend time to get receptive skills such as reading, listening and grammar. Students should not only study subjects relevant in studying for speaking English outside, but we also should study the rule of English which is equivalent to grammar, reading and listening practices by studying ourselves. Those manner of studies may help students’ level up from the past.

I learned English a lot under modern teaching in Canada. Consequentially, it ended up to be advanced from low-intermediate in assessing students’ level. I will study harder and teach English to my future students in reference to my past learning experience in a better educational environment.