Studying Second Language

TESOL 163

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“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” If you are an educator, you should have heard this saying of William Butler Yeats. According to this saying, the role of teachers in education is the most important. Many teachers majoring in education provide quality education to their students, but how many teachers will effectively communicate their knowledge to students? Or Are teachers communicate knowledge unilateral to students like Jug and Mug? I majored in English literature and I have been in a variety of language classes and met many teachers with variety teaching methods. Most of the teachers have done an excellence in classes. But I want to talk about one of the most memorable teacher and class based on the knowledge of the language teaching I have been learning so far in TESOL class. When I was college student I had an opportunity to go abroad and learn a language. I was a bit afraid of studying English abroad because I was accustomed to Grammar-Translation Method lessons that simply read and translate grammar in Korea. The professors of English generally played as like just explainer, and the students repeated the lessons that they followed and wrote like a machine. When I was tired of this typical lesson, I was lucky to meet a passionate teacher in a foreign country. As Carl Rogers the American psychologist have said, teacher has three qualities such as respect, empathy and authenticity and she was a teacher who majored in linguistics with all three requirements. Because the class environment that various races were gathered, the teacher had chosen the subject of the class considering the relativity of the students and led the atmosphere to participate in the class. Once the subject of the day was decided, the teacher gave the student a lot of time to give the handout to the students and deduce the topic among the groups. And we started the class with time to present the topic we thought. If students show difficulty in reasoning about a topic, the teacher will share it with each other and allow students to speak as much English as possible. Finally the students understood the subject of the lesson, the teacher always prepared the actual information about the subject called realia like the various pictures and the music video to easily draw the interest of the students. My English teacher preferred a visual and spatial teaching method and luckily it seemed that all students liked that style of teaching. However, when students logically presented at the midterm and final exams, teacher gave a slightly lower score to students. This caused little problems. My friend also studied with the same subject in the other classroom, but the teacher’s class style was so boring and inactive that she stopped listening to classes. However, the main reason she dropped out the class was because the lessons were boring compared to intermediate levels. Stephen Krashen said "Language acquisition does not require extensive use of conscious grammatical rules, and does not require tedious drill and the best methods are therefore those that supply 'comprehensible input' in low anxiety situations, containing messages that students really want to hear. These methods do not force early production in the second language, but allow students to produce when they are 'ready', recognizing that improvement comes from supplying communicative and comprehensible input, and not from forcing and correcting production." as Krashen said, a teacher who gives effective language to students prepares the class carefully by taking into account the level of the students to interaction in the target language to students and develops himself or herself as a teacher, and accepts the demands of the students .