Teacher’s values

TESOL 163

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When I learn a second language, I think that teachers' values are the most important things. Depends on their values, there are many kinds of teaching styles. I prefer to learn from the teachers who think about the way which is the best for their students. I believe they can make good rapport with their students because they usually try to look for the way how is the best for their students. I met two English teachers. They had differently an impact on my English.

When I was in 9 grades, I met an English teacher called Jang. He chose a traditional teaching style. He loved Jug & Mug and he always was an explainer. He had limited knowledge of teaching methodology. We mostly listened and took notes. He sometimes gave us some paper like a list of past participles, and then we just memorized about that. If we didn't memorize well, he hit us in the class. I didn't know why I had to memorize it. But I didn't want that he hit me, so I just memorized it even it wasn't fun to learn. Here's another story about him, and this is a sad one, too. He was a protestant. (I think he wasn't a real protestant because he didn't live like that.) One day, my friend and I did our homework together. Even if homework sheets are the same, I got B and my friend got A. Because she went to church that is the same one with him and I wasn't the protestant. He was awful. He never respected us. I think he never thought about rapport and he just didn't have the qualities of the teacher. So I really didn't like English and I didn't do English well at that time.

When I went abroad for studying English, I met an English teacher (that I don't remember her name). She chose a modern teaching style. She looked like a manager. She liked group works and students always talked to each other a lot in the class. I felt it was like a game so I could speak English a lot even though they had a lot of mistakes about the grammar. I didn't care about it because she made a low-anxiety learning environment. I think she was sometimes a good involver. When we learned about the grammar, she gave us some examples and asked us in pairs to write the form. And then we usually discussed about that so I could memorize that better. She knew the way how to make a good retention. She usually covered 4 language skills in the same class and she also use a variety of different types of activities. I am a logical and interpersonal person. So her class was helpful. It was interesting and I could enjoy the class. That's why I was getting better and better. When I went abroad, I was a False Beginner. But When I return to Korea, I became an Intermediate level.

Through my years of experience, whatever I learn, teacher's values are the most important things. The good teachers always try to learn how to teach well and they also try to concentrate on the rapport. And then they will know how to relate between teacher and students in their class, and find how to teach their students effectively in each of their classes. So, I won't stop to learn and think about the teaching because I want to be a good teacher for my students.