Han Sin (Warren) Kim

Mr. Wellman

TESOL 167th

17 January 2018

My language learning experience at school

I still remember when I was a third grader, I had an opportunity to meet my first foreign English teachers in the Elementary school at South Korea. I don’t exactly remember their name, but one of my foreign teacher in the afternoon class. She was the most helpful, excellent and the best teacher that I’ve ever had in my Elementary school year in terms of learning language. On the other hand, in my academic year at college in the United States; I use to have a professor that he taught my prerequisite subject called a “Business Law”. He was the only professor that I felt most unhelpful for me to learn the language of Law.

Learning a language is always interesting for me since I started to study English from my early teenage years. Being as a student in the United States was the most helpful and precious time for my entire life. However, in one particular class the lecture that I’ve had in my past year at college was the least helpful in learning language especially from the law. Nevertheless, hearing my professor’s experienced strategies to use in the court and the contents that he taught me through rest of the year was helpful. Whereas he’s set of skills, skills or technique that he used as he’s own way of teaching students weren’t good. Especially in learning language as a foreigner in the United States, English is my second language. It is not my mother tongue so the precedents and cases are definitely hard for me to understand its concept from the beginner’s side of view. To read and interpret past precedents cases from the courts was even hard for me to understand when I read it as in “Korean” version. Nonetheless, professor kept lecturing through his classes even though he knew his students could not follow up his progress. He was immensely a strong explainer, definitely a volatile in teaching. When it comes to paraphrase and organize phrases from the cases in a past precedent, he made me absolutely marginalize. In my point of view, his teaching in language learning was very unhelpful because all I ever did in his class was just to listening him lecturing through class. Not like in a normal class atmosphere where student-centered class, students discuss in a groups or pairs. Such as students discuss or debate whether the filed cases are guilty or not. But students only depend upon his decision because he led students to only listen to his lecture. So I am sure that I learned better in terms of language in law from the other professor.

One of my best foreign English teacher that I’ve met was my English teacher in the Elementary school when I was a third grader. In my class, she had led me talk to her whenever I struggle or find difficulty in the classroom. She was never imperative unless I was showing her a forcible bad manner. Though, she designated me an assignment for me to realize what was right and wrong thing to do in the classroom. My English teacher was so good because she was an involver. She was involved with the students in the learning process through tasks. All most every time when my classmates and I listened a song in the classroom as a whole class; she helped us to understand every single words that we might miss heard. She preferred a modern styled teaching instead of thick traditional styled teaching. Because not only my English teacher helped me to catch up when I felt behind in the class, but also she motivated me to study more as well as in learning English.

Finally, the involver typed teacher is better and most helpful teacher in terms of learning language from my experience because she helped me more than the traditional styled explainer.