We all have the experience of learning language other than inherited. I have had many years of English classes and couple of other language classes. All of my teachers had very different styles of teaching and I remember just couple of teacher’s classes were working for me to learn the language with the interest.

Luckily, I had the chance to study abroad and must to take the E.S.L. classes. The teacher was very different than previous language instructor I had. She would ask us to form a group of three or four but not with the same native language users. The groups of students had to make up sentences with a vocabulary she suggested. The subject could be anything like the apple she brings as a snack, color of a student’s t-shirts or simply any verb she picks. All of group members required speaking out at least one sentences and the whole class discussed if it was complete sentences with correct grammar.

 This was very unfamiliar assignment and uncomfortable to me cause I was so used to the traditional teaching with lecture based classes. Most of my teachers were explainer, all I did for the class was listen carefully and take notes for review. After couple sessions, I started to like working in groups. Students had similar level of language skills and the speaking out wasn’t a test for the grade. Even if we make mistakes in grammar, teacher would listened to us, encouraged and help to improve language skills without the pressure. I only studied vocabularies and grammar to get better grades on tests but this class felt like a free talking and gained confidence in speaking out.

She showed us many short films, played dialogue recordings, many flashcards games and even rewarded with candy for quizzes. As I remember, she tried to talk with the students individually about the movies playing, what we did on weekends and asked us lots of questions. She brought her black retriever to class for ‘Show and Tell’ and we had short walk with her dog in the field. Funny rule , had to speak English only to her dog.

The classroom was full of activities and very easy to follow, brought out motivation to do better in learning the language. I like to interact with classmates and the teacher, sharing everyday life experience like how I ordered a meal at the restaurant. Many visual and audio aids were helpful to remember and how to use phrase than just reading textbooks.

 Japanese class was very different than E.S.L., no activities just textbook based assignment. Teacher would ask questions time to time and practiced pronunciation by repetition. Student’s participation was to listen, memorize vocabularies mostly. The class was my least favorite, bored and easily lost interest to task. He was typical teacher centered explainer. I studied hard for the good grade but retention rate was very low.

I had very different teacher types as listed above, both knew the subject matter very well. I think encouraging and bringing out student’s intrinsic motivation is depends on how well teacher apply teaching methodology to a class. English class was more student centered and teacher applied dynamic teaching methodologies to class with assumption of the students could be auditory, visual or kinesthetic learner. She was more of involver and enabler, acted as counselor and lead us to find errors and correct ourselves. Now I learned about language and learning, impressed how well organized class it was, reflected second language acquisition theories of Input & Affective filter hypothesis.

The knowledge can’t be transferred even if you use textbook as a pillow. Entertaining and interesting lessons can be beneficiary to some student but looking back the experience of being taught I learned the most from the teacher who helped, listened and who made me work the most. According to Scrivener ‘Teaching’ does not equal to ‘Learning’ and I agree to him especially in learning language. Now that I am learning to teach English, concerns me if I could be a best teacher like who helped to learn English and hope to be the one like them.