174th WK\_Mia(Eunbee) Hwang\_1st Essay

Although I have learnt English since the age of 10, I’d rather regard Mandarin as my 2nd language because it was my choice to learn it with pure curiosity as majored in university when English has been mandatory to study at school. I would say that the most effective way of learning Mandarin was to watch Chinese TV shows and movies in terms of speaking and listening and to copy good examples of writing in order to improve writing and reading skills. According to three learner modes, I have a visual learning method preference so that TV shows, especially soap drama and comic movies that I watched during the class, are mostly helpful to upgrade my listening and speaking more than reading conversations in the text book because conversations in the shows are more practical and vivid that can be applied in a real life promptly. I guess that the teacher who used the method has noticed that the students actually didn’t retain what they taught even right after class as the contents of textbook are out-of-date and they felt bored in the still atmosphere. Her intention to generate our interest and attention by adding fun and visual materials has worked well since I still remember some of sentences from the show. In writing class, I began with copying good writings such as a part of novel, newspaper or magazine instead of just learning writing techniques. I have copied words after words, sentences after sentences, in the meantime I couldn’t help understanding contents and acquiring vocabulary unconsciously. As I followed those instances, my own dictionary and grammar got upgraded. I have experienced ‘Imitation is the mother of creation’.

Most of unhelpful ways of learning are related to traditional lecture type of teaching that performed by explainers' type of teachers through high school to university class. Somehow I could understand why those teachers had chosen this method because there were at least more than 40 students in a classroom so that it would be difficult to understand individual characteristics and lecturing would be the easiest way to convey knowledge to everyone evenly. However, I believe that the purpose of teaching is not just delivering information to students who passively receive but it has to help students retain and digest knowledge by themselves. If you learn something, you got to have something in your head after learning. There is no doubt that I would only pay less than 30% of my attention to the contents although I sit in the whole time of class and my fingers were busy to memo. If the classes were more active and got along with my intelligence type, I would've not wasted my time to study again after class.

On the second thought about my inexperience on teaching, I realized that my previous job, product marketing, also includes teaching style of task in many responsibilities such as presentation to customer, training for sales forces and mentoring junior staffs. From years of experience and 2 days of TESOL class, it is found that precedent research of learning audience is very critical and has to be prior to method preparation because teacher's duty continues until the knowledge taught is activated in receiver’s thought and behavior. In that context, I hope that I can be remembered as a smart teacher whose efforts of teaching will last longer than a nice teacher who is just nice to students.