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October 12, 2018

My best teacher

My best teacher was Miss Sujin who taught me French in high school. She was from Jeju and her French accent stimulated me when I first heard of French. So I always waited for French class and I was interested in learning new foreign language besides English. After learning French for a year, I wanted to study French more professionally. Actually I majored in French in university thanks to her.

She had a little bit traditional teaching style because of traditional teaching situation at that time. She taught with her text book , mostly read sentences that were in her text book and explained grammar in the lesson on that day. But she often made us do active participations that took part in the group like making a short story and practiced a conversation by pairs.

I think she seems to be an explainer and an enabler at the same time. When she taught us pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar in class, she explained one by one kindly and clearly to us so that we could understand well. And then sometimes, she would ask us pair up or group up to play roles with short conversation and teach us chansons to get more used to French. Learning chansons, we became more familiar with French, naturally liked it, and have chances to learn plenty of chansons. She tried to create an environment in which we could get access to foreign language without resistance, even if it was time when traditional teaching technique were used more than in various modern ways.

She was not only passionate about making us learn a target language well in class, but she also did not force us to test or memorize the language to make it easier for us to learn it. I think she respected us in terms of not forcing us to correct pronunciations or wrong sentences and so on. So there were many students who hated English but liked French.

Due to Miss Sujin’s effective teaching style, we could build up trust among us and between teacher and students in a low- anxiety learning environment. And through the efforts of her enabler teaching techniques , we improved our French more and the chansong we learned often came out around our mouths. After graduation, when I taught French in high school, I gave a lecture referring to the ways she did, thinking about how to teach students effectively in various ways. I remember trying to encourage and respect students so that they can naturally trigger learning motivation.