Liz (Da eun Shin)

860 words

Nov. 27th, 2018

The one who offered me the most memorable memory teaching

My best teacher was the one who taught me French in Canada when I was 11 years old. She tutored me and my housemates in our house where I lived with 8 other Korean friends. She was Korean and maybe about my age, 20s. I was a true beginner at that time and really needed help to learn French because the place I had been living in for a while used both English and French. She taught me all the way from French alphabet to conversations. I remember her as the best teacher because she had the most enthusiasm. I was quiet a naughty student who did not like to do homework and to review. As an enabler, she did not just blame me or gave up on me but encouraged me to keep up. She told me that ‘not knowing’ is okay, and it is a pleasure to learn what you do not know. She lectured well. Moreover she made her students to share their own thoughts in her own style of teaching as a modern and effective teacher. Under her advices, my French and self-confidence rose.

If someone asks whether she was a traditional teacher or modern teacher, I would answer that she was a modern style teacher. In our class, I and other students spoke more than her. She asked for the reasons of the answers we had chosen. It helped us to think more deeply. Rather than her to read, she let us read the textbook out loud and corrected us if we pronounced wrong by playing tapes. Because the computers were not common those days in Canada, she carried a medium sized white board and brought us many printed out pictures for us to understand the word we were learning well.

As you can recognize already, my best teacher was an enabler. She first explained the students the meaning of a word, how to read and pronounce it, and grammars to help us make sentences from the word. She made few sentences for herself first and let us create our own sentences. She also made us read French-written novels which were pretty difficult for beginners to comprehend. Before we read the book, she gave us a list of word with the meaning from the chapter of the book we were going to read. Not knowing the exact story but some words, she asked us to guess what the paragraphs were about and then explained to us in easy French sentences. In that way, we could read the novels out loud, listen to other students’ and the teacher’s voices and learn easy synonyms at the same time. She always made the class enjoyable and helpful in her own way.

Recalling my best teacher’s effective teaching, first she definitely respected the students. Though we were much younger than her, she used polite expressions and asked before she decided. As I wrote in the former paragraph, she had her own style of teaching which means she is authentic. She was also a strict teacher who scolded me properly when I had been lazy on my work. She did not blame me for getting a wrong answer and empathized with a young child, me. Not only giving a lecture or assigning homework, she suggested me to go to a two-day camp with native French speakers of similar age of me. I surprisingly became a roommate with Quebec twin sisters who only spoke French. Getting along with them and fighting with them, because they were mischievous children who even locked me in the room for fun, made my fluency advance so quickly.

I who had not even known how to read alphabets in French when I had first met my best in-home French teacher learned French after studying with her and as a result I could read, listen, write and speak French like a native 11 years old Canadian in Quebec. Even though she could not use computers due to poor digital surroundings, she did her best to use as many materials such as boards, pictures, and tapes and made her students more participate than just to stare at the teacher’s note and to study the textbook. She let us discuss about the matters we learn and helped us organize the class by ourselves. In this regard I think she is a modern teacher. She was also an enabler which is considered the best model of 3 types of teachers. By using a novel ‘Les Misérables’ written in French, she explained the lexis and grammar, let us read it out loud and reread it with easier words in her voice do that we could guess the meanings and synonyms, too. On account of her teaching, I felt respected, emphasized and her as authentic. Going further than teaching in class, she recommended me to have a realistic outdoor experience which improved my French a lot and also made the both language fun and useful. She is the type of teacher I want to resemble. As a result I aim to be a modern, enabling, respecting, empathizing and authentic teacher like her.