Hyun Joseph Cho

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My Best Chinese Teacher, Shen Zhen

I have experienced greatest teacher named ‘Mr. Shen Zhen’. He was my Chinese language teacher in my high school year of 2003 to 2004 in Shanghai, China. I was afraid to go to school because I was a beginner in language and a new student in school. I had to learn the language as fast as possible in one year and take regular high school classes, so I felt a lot of pressure too. He always listens to his students, energetic, fun, caring, and has a great sense of humor. I could learn Chinese with self-confidence and no-anxiety. In classroom, I learned Chinese about phonology, grammar, functions and discourses. And developed reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills rapidly. To increase the language, I advised to hang out with my friends and use it often, and I could play sports with friends of my age such as soccer and basketball, and I could continue to use the language. The teacher was a teacher in class and became a close friend outside of class.

Mr. Shen Zhen, Chinese teacher, was an involver and enabler teacher. He allowed us to create our own ideas always and sometimes used traditional teaching techniques. We learned Chinese language with group activities like role play, free discussion with different topics and active moving fun games. He knew about the subject matter and about methology, but also has awareness of how individuals and groups are thinking and feeling within class. He gave me time and confidence to make a mistake freely in classroom, corrected and explained it easily. he was involver, he uses a variety of techniques including explanation. Activity involves students, allowing them chances to speak and ask questions. And finds relevant and interesting activities. I think mixture of involver and enabler teacher would be the best effective teacher for students.

Mr. Shen Zhen, Chinese teacher, was a modern style teacher. He communicated focus student-centered, teached with variety of activities and group works and made students feel ‘no-anxiety’ and ‘self-confident’. traditional way teaching is ineffective and classes will be boring. I think modern way of teaching is much effective to students than traditional way of teaching such as lecturing and reading materials only. Of course, there may be a lot of students or a difficult environment to implement modern style education, but if possible, I would like to teach students in a modern style. Currently, many teachers are also trying to teach students in a modern-style way. I think it means that it works as well.

Mr. Shen Zhen, Chinese teacher, seemed to understand teaching concepts well to teach students. The teacher has always prepared a lot for the course. He was able to continue his interesting lessons by making students think and express themselves in language. I found that the relationship between teachers and students was also important. The students were always checked individually. Because he knew the ways to learning are different for each students. Except for the whole class, it was given consideration accordingly. He applied various teaching / mentoring techniques such as discussion groups and teaching others which allowed us to increase our retention rate to 80-90%. He used many live demonstration and experiential learning too. He tried to give easy explanation to get students interested in the topic and to get them to learn.

‘A good teacher is a candle in itself. It is a candle that burns itself hard until the eyes of the disciples are opened to light and the darkness is over (Dong-Bum Yu, Seoul University Language Professor)’. I agreed with this famous saying about the teacher. Students may dislike or like studying depending on their teachers. That's how much you think teaching is an important thing that affects students. I thought I needed a serious thought about the meaning of a good teacher. And I think there is a need for constant effort. I will help students get rid of their fear of learning languages and gain confidence. I will attend the class but only participate a little and make time for students to freely learn and use the language. I want to teach students in various ways and I will continue to try to find a way to fit them. Because of my Chinese teacher, Mr. Shen Zhen, I could learn a language and graduate from high school. I could learned the meaning of a good teacher and now I want to be such a good teacher to someone.