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January 16, 2019.

**Sad Memory of Chinese Class in high school.**

Mr. Song was my Chinese Character teacher and also he was my classroom teacher. It was my third grade in the high school in Korea. Our class met him early in the morning , late in the evening and in the Chinese Character class also. He was a thin tall man and has very low voice tone. As I remember he was a traditional type of teacher in Chinese character class and classroom also. He usually told us what we have to do or not to do in the morning and did the same thing in the evening. He was the head of Supervisor of student Dept., we called it HakJu in Korean. It’s acronyms of teacher’s role in Korean, the head of supervisor of student dept. He used to bring a wooden stick inside of Student attendance book. Actually it has been almost 25 years since I graduated, so it is hard to remember the specific of the classroom situation. Even though I can say he was very typical Korean male teacher and his teaching style was totally traditional one. Korean students usually visit their teachers after graduation for a while but I and my classmates never visited him again. It is a very sad memory of our high school period. It is because we had another issue without the subject learning. It is not about his teaching style, but about his personality, so I am not going to say this part.

As I already mentioned, he was a very traditional type of teacher. He lead all the class almost without student’s participation. I can say it was a very teacher- centered class. We usually listened to what he said and watched what he wrote on the board. We also took the notes on our notebook in a hurry because he often erased the board without warning when he was done. The textbook and the notebook were very important to bring to the class. Sometimes we had to stand at the back of the classroom when we forgot to bring them.

He was an explainer also. He always explained by writing on the board. They were the Chinese Characters and the meaning of the letters. He wrote about not only the Chinese but also classroom rules. He did not like to speak a lot, he preferred to write on board. We had no chances to talk about the subject. We just had to take notes after what he already wrote on the board on our notebooks. When we finished writing down on the notebook, we should memorize it by ourselves. It was all about test in school or for university applying, so we should be very serious to study in class. There was no fun at all.

Since it was all about test and applying to university, in the class, we had a very high-anxiety learning environment as per Affective Filter Hypothesis. Students’ motivation is test itself which they are going to take only. We took a quiz all the time what we learned that day, and sometimes he slapped our palms with his stick as per the wrong answers. We should memorize what we studied that day for the quiz, so we could take the quiz easily. But after some time, we could hardly remember the letters. It is because he only lectured and we only read and wrote during the class. It could not have high retention rates with both two ways to learn, taking lecture and reading.

Maybe I have erased my memory of that time because it was not good memory for the third grade in high school. It took time to think of those memories again. It was very important time to Korean students but we did not have a great teacher for the last time of the school. But he was very typical type of Korean male teacher, he was not the only one of that kind of teacher as I remembered. Time passed, I believe there are lots of great teachers in the school these days. And I also want to be a great teacher who can draw student’s potential ability to learn the language making good learning environment using what I learned from this class. I want my students to participate in the class activities as much as possible. I want to encourage them to speak out the language as possible. I also want to prepare my future class which can help my students can speak real English during this course. I want them to learn the language with fun memories of learning. I really do.