**My Dream as a Teacher of Young English Learners**

**TC 199th First Essay Kate Ha**

“You're too old for that job.”

“It's not even your major.”

“Your children are only five and nine years old. They still need your care.”

“Do you really have to spend so much money on it?”

 When I determined that I was going to learn TESOL for Children, many people told me that they worried about me. I know that they're good people but I worried about my future.

 I had worked in the movie industry for ten years. I worked with many famous actors and went to Venice, Cannes, and the Berlin film festivals. I was proud of my work and I loved my job. Also I loved to travel. I have been to seven European countries and Asia including China and Japan for backpack travel. Especially, the two-month trip to India, Nepal, and Thailand that I went to alone gave me a lot of inspiration.

 I was a woman who has many dreams.

 After a happy marriage and amazing childbirth, I had to choose whether I went back to the work or take care of my baby. I chose the latter. It was amazing and happy at the same time it made me sad and exhausted.

 One day I was asked to teach my nephew English. I started to study phonics for teaching my niece. She even didn’t know the alphabet. I taught phonics with activities. Soon she began to read fairy tales and chapter books. It was exciting for me.

 I remembered a woman who has many dreams. I had a dream again.

 Teaching someone is a hard thing. Teaching someone in English is very hard thing. Especially if that someone is a child? Oh, It will be very tough. Why do I want to learn TESOL for Children? It's hard for me to explain exactly. But the clear thing is that I like to learn English. It is very stressful but I will try. Besides I like children. I like to teach English to children. But I don’t want to teach English in the Korean style anymore.

 Now I know what I want and what I want be. I want to teach English for children in English as a Foreign Language. Because I grew up in EFL, unfortunately I’ve never met a good English teacher. They were kind teachers but they taught only English for exam.

 That’s why I want to be a good English teacher for children. I want to let my student dream of a bigger world by learning English. I want be a teacher that has empathy and authenticity. I will respect my students. I hope to learn education theory in TC. I have taught young students when I was in college. I majored in Korean language and literature. So I knew the Korean language, but I didn't know much about education. I was embarrassed by the children's behavior. Next semester I took the theory of education. I could understand the children more than before.

 Absolutely, theory in English is very difficult to me. But I do need it. So I will try.

 I want to learn practical teaching skills in TC. I look forward to learn these things from the curriculum here. Above all I want to gain self-confidence. I will learn study and practice more as an English teacher. I am not shy. But English makes me shy. So I understand that many students who are afraid of English. I expect to be a better as myself at the end of the class.

 After ten years, I became an English teacher with a lot of experience.

 Fortunately I met a good English teacher in Korea, his name is Frank. Frank said all the time, “Students feel uncomfortable it was my fault not students.” I always remember that I tried to be a friendly teacher. After TC, I studied English more, at that same time I taught English many students in the way I learned from TC.

 Korean students get a lot of hurt at school. Students are judged by high score only. They are hurt by the teacher, friends, and even parents. They feel like losers themselves. They call ‘Youngpoja’ by themselves. It means that ‘person who has given up English’. What's amazing is that it starts in the third grade. I thought this was a very serious problem. Other teachers thought so, too. That’s why 100 female English teachers from all over the country gathered to think that there was a problem with English education in Korea. The name of group is ‘Miz Black’. Name comes from title of India film [Black].The story is that a young woman who can't see, hear or talk and the teacher who brings a ray of light into her dark world. It seems like Sullivan who taught Helen Keller. Maybe we can't be Sullivan. But we gathered to be a better teacher. ‘No pain No gain’ is right. But children like this ‘No fun No gain’. I tried to teach English more funny to my children. My students felt that English was fun. And they realized English is a tool for the wider world.

 One of my students who called ‘person who has given up English’ became an English teacher.

 The other student sent me an e-mail from Canada. He is studying at the University of Canada he wanted.

 The most amazing thing is that a girl who has dyslexia. When I met her, she was in the 5th grade. She studied English at a large language institute for three years. But she could not distinguish between bd, pq, mn, or gy. She writes down ‘bog’ and reads ‘dog’. She couldn’t read even the easy word like ‘this’. I noticed that she was dyslexic. I guided her to read the easy sentences slowly and loudly. I didn't get angry at her, but I complimented her a lot. I asked her mother to do this, too. She became a tourist interpreter. It is a national certification test that is very difficult to pass. She gave me a big hug when she got the pass.

 There's another surprise. I studied for a master's degree in Canada. And I was a child care teacher in Canada for two years. It was one of my dreams list as a teacher. I did it.

 I am planning to teach English in other Asian countries. I want to teach and learn more interestingly as an Asian.

 This great journey began 10 years ago when I chose to learn TC. I am planning to be a good English teacher for the next 10 years. There will be an English teacher who called ‘funny old lady’ everywhere. English would be fun anywhere with her. Her name is Kate.