My Teaching Philosophy

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Teaching Chinese is my dream. I have been told that I should teach, and then I teach now. In fact, my teaching style and techniques are evolving daily as I learn through professional development, by studying my peers, and most importantly by listening to my students. To me, a large part of teaching is figuring out how people learn. I am passionate about education because I am a constant learner myself.

From the first day of my teaching, I started discovering myself, including my personalities, my style, and my focus. And I believe that a key element in the foreign language classroom is keeping the students motivated. My personal style of teaching brings enthusiasm and cultural elements into the classroom to increase learning motivation. I teach with a contagious smile and open personality that helps me to interact with my students as I guide them through their learning process. Teaching my native Chinese language enables me to draw upon my own culture and personal experience as a foreign language learner as I teach my students to effectively communicate with me in my own language and, perhaps more importantly, to gain an appreciation for another language and culture.

My objective as a teacher is to motivate my students, to bring out that which is already in the student's mind. To reach this end, I see myself as a role model in the classroom, to be emulated by students. I define my approach to teaching foreign language as idealism since I always play an active role in discussion, posing questions, selecting materials, and establishing an environment.
As a Chinese teacher, I try to bring as much of my culture into the classroom as possible. For example, I used the example that one of my professor from the University of Minnesota used in our class. I called this activity “observing culture difference”. I asked a student to come up in front of the class, and we pretend to meet at a public place. We were shaking hands with each other, and I wouldn’t let her hand go by holding her hand. She felt embarrassed. In my country, we don’t have too much personal space, so this demonstration allowed students to experience other aspects of my culture for themselves.

I believe that my enthusiastic, cultural-technological approach to teaching Chinese enables students to acquire language skills in a manner that keeps them interested and motivated. The results I have seen in my students are quite positive. Attending the exhibition of China is one way to learn more about my culture, and for the Chinese club students to watch the Chinese New Year’s show is also a wonderful experience. Now, they keep asking me whether we are going to have exchange program to China. They are so willing to travel to China to see it and to try their language skills.

So far, it seems I have found my style, or my philosophy, I believe that ideas can change lives. Teaching language may not change their mind right away, but teaching the culture with the language will lead the students think about themseves. And I will also think of my teachings.