

**Náslechová oborová praxe průběžná**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> semester**

**Class Observation # 1: The teacher's meta-language**

**Class:** 8<sup>th</sup> year students

**Number of learners:** 9 (8 females, 1 male)

**Age of learners:** 13-14

**Length of lesson:** 45 min. (8:00-8:45)

**Level:** Pre-Intermediate

**Teacher observed:** Jana

***My observation took place at a primary school in Tasov.***

The class began with the teacher introducing the observer to the class. After the introduction was made the teacher asked to collect the homework assignment that was assigned in the last class.

The first thing I noticed was the teacher's voice. It was a well-balanced and directive voice so she didn't have to say "during this class you are going to pay attention and learn English without exception", because everything was included in her voice.

The teacher started giving instructions: "Open your exercise books, please! Page 19, exercise 2." While she was giving the instructions she checked every student if they were doing what she wanted and she noticed that one girl was not paying attention:

"Lenka exercise number 2. Go ahead!"

Lenka started reading the first sentence of an exercise but it was a wrong exercise so the teacher interrupted her:

"No, exercise number 2! Is everything all right?" (using a directive but also concerned voice)

"Yes," Lenka answered.

"OK, so try to read the first sentence and the rest of you focus on the exercise, too."

I highlight this particular conversation because after the observation, when I was thinking about the teacher's attitude, I realised that the meta-language was not only about the teacher's voice or words she used, but also about her body language and her movement in the classroom. I also liked the way how she stayed in touch with the rest of the students when she was talking to Lenka.

Moreover, I appreciate the teacher's show of empathy when she realised that Lenka didn't even know what exercise she should have done. And still, the teacher somehow managed to be connected with other students – it was really great and inspirational.

Another example of giving instructions was, "Look at the picture Marek. What can you see in the picture?"

When giving instructions like this one, the teacher made an eye contact which I found very important because the student was made to pay attention by the eye contact.

During the observation I also concentrated on how the teacher praised her students and I must say that she was really great at it. The teacher's expression was so natural and she never forgot to praise her students when the answer was right. Moreover, she repeated the right answer and then praised the particular student (e.g. "Around the world, very good Vanda" or "She is sitting on the table, excellent Marie). Notice that the teacher always used the students' names at the end of the praise. In my opinion, it is really very important for building the students' self-confidence, because for many students it must be a very good feeling that other students in the classroom know who was responsible for the right answer. It's like "Hello, it was me who had known the right answer and I'm proud of myself, ha-ha."

The last thing I would like to write about is the way how the teacher made corrections. When a student was wrong, the teacher didn't say the right answer immediately but she gave other students a chance to correct the answer themselves (e.g. "Everybody thinks it is OK?"). I think that it is a good way how to make students to think about the answer and also how to cooperate with students and show them that they are an important part of the class.

The observation was really inspirational and useful but I have also realised that it's not going to be very easy to become a good teacher. When speaking about meta-language, it's not enough to use excellent words. It's not enough to use an excellent and proper voice. It's not enough to use an excellent body-language. If we want to be good at meta-language we have to be able to use all the three skills simultaneously.

The teacher I observed was very good at using meta-language and he is a human like me, so I believe that I can be a good teacher like her.