

Name

Course

Tutor

Date

### Personal Teaching Philosophy and Learning Theories

Over the centuries, various philosophers and scholars were determined to ensure adequate and appropriate learning process. As a result, they came up with numerous detailed and informative theories of learning and teaching in various academic fields and institutions. These theories give teachers educative and didactic knowledge that is essential and vital in teaching children. I believe that these theories offer essential teaching and learning techniques such as group discussion that is helpful in understanding different disciplines in schools. My teaching and learning philosophy is that learning should be done in a way that it encourages learners to seek information. Thereby, developing an appropriate classroom environment and applying techniques that encourage interactive learning are a mandatory component of my classes. The following section discusses some of the theories of learning and their connection with my teaching and learning philosophy.

Various philosophers came up with numerous theories to understand the learning and teaching process. According to Piaget, different students and children mature slowly, hence, making learning a gradual process. It implies that the transition in children occurs at different periods that are 18 months, 7 years, and at 12 years (Snowman and McCown 136). Moreover, he argues that a physical examination is essential and necessary for enhancing the learning process. To him, this process allows manipulation of material that quickly helps students to grasp knowledge. Moreover, Piaget argues that students also need

interaction and social experience such as group work. It helps various students exchange ideas and learn from each other. Further, students also need to gain logical-mathematical knowledge that is necessary for learning simple arithmetic in schools. Ultimately, these factors are important and helpful in building the mental structure of students.

Gilligan also developed the behaviorism theory to educate and inform students and teachers about the learning and teaching process. His theory states that animals and humans learning process solely focuses on observable behaviors as opposed to numerous internal events such as emotions and moods that are subjective. His argument is based on the fact that most human behaviors beings are easily measured, nurtured, and changed. Thus, he believes learning is solely based on the idea that all human and animal acquire new behaviors through conditioning (Snowman and McCown 156). As a result, human and animal consistent interaction with the environment hugely impacts on their behavior, hence facilitates the learning process.

Similarly, Vygotsky came up with the social development theory. According to this theory, social interaction and communication among students are fundamental to the learning process. Consequently, he urges most teachers should create open, supportive, friendly, conducive, and productive learning environments that support and maximize the interaction of students in various institutions. In addition, he argues that culture plays a pivotal role in knowledge construction in numerous students. Through the interaction with other students from different backgrounds, student learns multiple new skills shaped by peers' cultures. Moreover, he says that not only culture is essential in learning, but also language (Snowman and McCown 162). Language promotes and ensures the development of reasoning and thinking among students. Thus, teachers should also aim at adopting

programs and numerous strategies that aim at improving language and communication of students in academic institutions. Additionally, Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory states that motivated students in various educational institutions are often creative, eager, and ready to learn (Snowman and McCown 163). Consequently, teachers adopting different motivation theories are assured of achieving their mission of churning out knowledgeable and intelligent students.

Erickson also developed a learning and teaching theory. This theory of psychosocial development is among the best personality theories. According to Erickson, human personality develops gradually in stages. Moreover, Erickson argues that social experience has a massive impact on the learning and teaching process. To him, humans develop a sense of self-worth and appreciation through interactive activities such as group work among students. In addition, the process is gradual and dynamic since it changes with the daily acquisition of new experience and information. Although the theory is convincing and informative, it is known that Erickson had limited knowledge of cultural diversity and various societies. As a result, it is justifiable to question the universality of his theory. Moreover, some high school teachers have an authoritative parenting style. According to Snowman and McCown, they establish strict rules aimed at ensuring students remain disciplined (261). As a result, students are expected to follow these rules strictly. Although the rules are strict, this kind of parenting technique adopted by high school teachers is democratic. It also impacts clear standards on children.

Owing to my teaching philosophy, I believe that theories that promote effective learning are socialization and interaction such as the one derived from group work. Thus, I agree with Piaget that manipulation of material help children grasps things faster and

effectively. Moreover, a successful teaching incorporates an appropriate environment, which is conducive to learning. For instance, the environment should be productive, friendly, and supportive. As a result, I agree with Vygotsky on his theory of social interaction.

Works Cited

Snowman, Jack, and Rick McCown. *ED PSYCH*. Belmont: Cengage Learning, 2012. Print.