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Communicating with US

In our first connection with the students of East Carolina University, I found it amazing that they had been so well prepared for the lecture day, which is quite different from our lecture day with the Mexico students. I think almost every ECU student had prepared his own presentation, while we only had prepared one. Fortunately, Claire didn’t make us look bad because her presentation was awesome! She introduced the Chinese table manners to the foreign students, and in case they don’t understand her explanation she attached some pictures for the purpose of demonstration. Her presentation really drew everyone’s attention. On the other hand, the ECU student’s presentation was also full of pictures. She introduced their appearances and what they wear to school, which was very refreshing because it’s quite different from the custom in our university. What they wear to school is very casual, but in our university, students dress up for school day. Besides what they wear, I also learned about their sororities and fraternities. It was refreshing, too, because I’d never heard from my foreign friends talking about their college life, especially about things the sororities and the fraternities do. I got my first impression on the sororities and fraternities mostly from Hollywood movies or American episodes, and their behaviors are often exaggerated on TV. For instance, on TV, most members of the sororities are shallow, skinny and contemptuous, and those of the fraternities are alcoholic and playful. But after communicating with the ECU students, I realized that they actually contribute their money and efforts to their community, which really changed my point of view towards them. However, my impression on them is not totally reversed. In fact, they do crazy things to their new members, and according to the information my partner gave me on emails, what they do are always kept carefully as secrets, and no one will ever know except themselves.

The topic of our second connection with ECU was college life, since I was in group B, I chatted with my partner through *mIRC*. We first talked about the dormitory, and, as Aicha described, the situation there is pretty much the same as ours: half students live in the dorm, while the other half live at home. Apart from that, we talked about a variety of topics such as community colleges, school tuitions, and food in school. What different from our society is that they can get diplomas after graduating from community colleges, and that they don’t have to pay to be educated in primary school, junior and senior high school. As for the food in their college, Aicha said they had a huge dining hall, where most students went to, and uncountable restaurants, which she said the number of restaurants in ECU was too many to count. They even have a gym in the university. From her description, I guessed ECU was a well-equipped and enormous university. As to the third connection, we talked about the common family structure. What surprised me was the divorce rate was so high that most parents of the ECU partners got divorced and remarried. Unfortunately, the divorce rate in Taiwan has also been rising in recent years.

After connecting with ECU, I felt honored to have the opportunity to communicate with them because they are so well-prepared every time that they always ask a lot of questions. And I don’t know if it’s because that English is their mother language, the conference with them was more smoothly than the conference with the Mexican students, and that means, we can ask more questions and learn more during the same quantity of time. Therefore, I must prepare more questions for them next time.