

FAULT FINDERS

by:

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English teachers are believed to be fault finders.

This is the ultimate truth I fathom about my chosen profession. Well, I cannot blame them if they have such a notion about us for I personally witnessed during my undergrad years how my classmates from other majors became reluctant and uneasy every time they present their reports in English. They felt as if we would mock them or make fun of their errors.

Some would say English majors are quite intimidating. I guess that would boil down to the idea that we are able to speak a second language. But the way I see it, those teachers who have the ability to express themselves in English well are more confident making them exude a strong personality. Aside from English teachers, teachers of Math and Science subjects are perceived to be robust in communication. However, they are not tagged as fault finders.

I don't know if being tagged as such is a positive or negative connotation. But I personally believe that the primary reason why an impression like this occurs is because of us being outspoken. Most of us courageously speak our minds. And while doing such, we often use the second language. That language is English.

However, despite such, we always bear in mind to keep ourselves grounded. As quipped Sibayan (2003), although a handful of solicitous Filipinos comprehend the significance and worth of English in their domestic life, these same Filipinos apprehend that it will not be the key medium of communication with the people because quality

education in English can be attained only in advanced education. The mainstream Filipinos will be deprived of the English language. There must be a language that will be noble for the people, principally the common ones. That language is Filipino.

Though how good we could possibly be regarding the technicality of the English language, it is still a prominent fact that our students belong to the majority whose main and dominant language is Filipino. As long as we are teaching in the Philippines and catering to Filipino learners, it will never happen that we, English teachers are the dominant ones. After all, all teachers are language teachers.

References:

Sibayan, B. (2003). *The Intellectualization of Filipino*. EBSCO Publishing