

Analysis on College Language Education in the Perspective of Humanistic Education

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Abstract—College language education emphasizes on student's self-learning ability and all-round coordinated development in the perspective of humanistic education which takes individual cultivation as the core of education. So bringing student's learning initiative into full play should be embedded in college language education. It also demands teacher's higher quality. This paper analyzes the current condition of college English education and proposes corresponding advice to it in the perspective of humanistic education.

Keywords—Humanistic education, College English, Language education

Early in the European Renaissance, the concept "humanistic education" has come into being. To improve cultural awareness and enrich humanistic spirit through learning humanistic science is what it means. English belongs to humanistic science too. In the recent years, China's higher English education has been putting special emphasis on cultivating student's English humanistic quality whose core is the cultivation of humanistic spirit. In the process of college English education, we should take humanistic education as an important part. There are many problems in our higher English education, lots of students can't use English to deal with questions in life, focused teaching on linguistic ability without noticing humanistic quality, etc. Resulting from a survey, Chinese students learn less traditional culture than what's required, letting alone western culture. The lack of humanistic quality is harmful to student's all-round development. To improve that, the fundamental thing is to put the idea of humanistic education into every subject. As one of the main compulsory courses, English should take more responsibility to the cultivation of student's humanistic quality.

I. THE CURRENT CONDITION OF COLLEGE ENGLISH EDUCATION

Totally speaking, China's college education is mainly focused on cultivating student's basic and overall skills, and widening range of knowledge. It fits our traditional education characters, but doesn't fit well the cultivating idea in the present period of quality-oriented education. Traditional English education didn't attach importance to humanistic education. For a long time, caught in traditional thoughts, English teacher is the centre of the class who inculcates knowledge and students the passive learner. This conception has been deeply implanted in the hearts of the people. It came from a certain objective history, promoted the development of China's higher education in a great extent. But its accumulated malpractice is gradually emerging now, it does bad to cultivate student's linguistic skills, to stimulate their enthusiasm, and weakens their ability to create and innovate.

Humanism and language are closely connected. Humanism is the basement for language to arise and develop and language is an external appearance of humanism. Without humanism, language is like grass without root, water without source. In the recent years, the problem exists in our higher education and a lack of humanistic quality has attracted the attention of all walks of society. English is a useful subject. Humanistic knowledge plays a quite important role in communication across cultures. If we constantly keep on teaching English knowledge and skills, the dream to improve student's comprehensive usage of language and all-round quality will never come true.

II. THE CULTIVATION OF CULTURAL QUALITY IN COLLEGE ENGLISH EDUCATION

In the process of college education, teacher should pay attention to the permeation of language and culture. With the New Lesson Reform stepping into deepwater zone, people are being more aware of the unique culture contained in English. Teaching English is not only to teach students linguistic ability and knowledge, but also a process of the permeation and nurture of fine humanistic spirit, to make them aware of the complementary relationship between the two parts, which can't be divided. To permeate humanistic spirit into college education more effectively, I think we can start from the following aspects:

A. To Widen Students' Range of Knowledge Through Introducing Backgrounds of the Text before Class

There are lots of background knowledge contained in the university text, including humanistic geography, history, author's style, the country's custom, traditional culture, sense of value, aesthetic notion, etc. The context is supposed to be introduced before class to help student know clearly about relevant information and experience foreign customs and practices. University students know initially how to explore question, it allows teacher to divide them into groups and discuss it themselves. It can be random, or dividing based on their characteristics. In the process of preparing for class-collecting information through books and the Internet, which helps students to digest and understand knowledge-students' initiative to study can be brought into full play. And then teachers classify the information they collected, choose suitable ones to apply to the class in the popular way like multimedia.

B. To Improve Humanistic awareness through Digging the Deeper Cultural Meaning

Culture is a combination of human spiritual and material civilization [4]. The concept of culture has its broad humanistic meaning. The basic meaning is material culture, which was transformed from human's subjective will; the second is system culture, including economical and political systems, which was produced from a certain historical time, and it can be divided elaborately into human's behavior and activity, cultural works; the last one is mental culture, such as human's sense of value and life, aesthetic notion, moral integrity, etc. They are ranked from surface to inner part. The current higher English education mainly focuses on the former two lower aspects, lacks exploration and study to the deeper one. There was a relevant experiment, and the students were divided into different groups and given different English humanistic education. After one year, they found students acquired deeper humanistic knowledge also made more progress. As a result, in the higher education stage when students eagerly want to study and explore knowledge, all of English teachers should spread knowledge not only on superficial and system culture, but also try very best to deeper and wider aspects, combine books and cultural background, gradually help students get their own view and understanding towards culture.

III. THE CULTIVATION OF HUMANISTIC SPIRIT IN COLLEGE ENGLISH EDUCATION

We can't cultivate humanistic spirit in a day, it's a long complicated process to build and complete it. We should have it in mind to take an attitude of being scientific, organized and make real results rather than try to make it immediately. To cultivate student's English humanistic quality, we should first improve their cultural quality. Selecting text books with enough information and knowledge and culturally advanced as the teaching basement. We should change thoroughly the stereotype, center on and target at student's self-development. Guiding them to pay more attention to humanistic acknowledgement and study, digest and learn from cultural background.

A. To Dig Humanistic Spirit through Reforming Education Stereotype

With the development of science and technology today, education is no longer a unidirectional boring process. Technologies like online and telecommunication provide new convenient approaches, the most subsequently used one is the multimedia. It allows us to do some job on reforming the teaching stereotype, teaching knowledge in a more lively way with more pictures and videos, their initiative is brought to full play in the class atmosphere which is no longer quiet and boring. As an abstract conception, it's difficult to teach humanistic spirit and knowledge in traditional media, let alone the result. While the new media helps us to break the limitation of time and space, making it possible for teacher and student to communicate in any time, any place. Through digging humanistic spirit of knowledge, we can guide student to learn and analyze in all aspects in different perspectives, thus exercising their ability to think and distinct themselves. They learn through theory, practice through exploration, and reach the goal of recapturing and improving themselves eventually.

B. To Improve Humanistic Quality of English Teacher

Teacher is the main part of education. For a long time, the basic requirement to college English teacher is acquiring traditional theory, involving few tests on humanism. As a result, many teachers do not attach much importance on humanistic knowledge even think it's not connected with student's study in the current stage. Obviously, we know the result. Therefore, it's essential and key to improve teachers' humanistic quality if we want to improve that of students. Acquired sound professional knowledge, teachers are supposed to improve all-round qualities, especially those humanistic qualities closely connected with English teaching, further to understand own professional ones in the study and accumulating process, mutually benefiting each other. Teachers should have an international vision to read and write as much as possible and keep them in mind, take knowledge as a pluralistic one with sense of inclusiveness and conclusiveness.

C. To Improve the Humanism of Developing Environment of Student and Teacher

It's of great significance for both teacher and student to have a comfortable and positive environment, that's also the first one which needs to be improved. Broadly speaking, developing environment can be divided into natural and social environment. The natural one includes class, library, Internet, etc. The social one includes more management aspects, social relationships between teachers, teachers and students. To improve the humanistic relationship between teachers and students, the school should figure out the relationship between managing and teaching, taking it as the fundamental guideline to teach for cultivation, center on people. Respecting teachers and paying attention to their individual development, respecting students and paying attention to their improvement of overall qualities. Under available conditions, creating fine opportunity for teachers to further train and improve themselves, helping them solve real difficulties in work and life, completing education system, thus bringing their initiative into full play oriented in policy. And developing environment also has realistic meaning to student's study and development. Taking humanistic spirit as the guideline, we should create a tight inside and loose outside atmosphere, bringing student's initiative into full play in such a comfortable environment and reaching the goal of improving their qualities in all aspects. In the building of the testing system, we should abandon the traditional test-oriented mode, transforming it into which can guide and regulate their study.

IV. CONCLUSION

With the development of economy and society, China's higher education has stepped into a new stage. Taking the unique responsibility to send professional talents to our country, the cultivating goal of our higher education should keep up with social development, and make progress not only on quantity but also on quality in the new time. In college English education, we should attach importance on cultivating student's cultural quality, helping them build humanistic spirit. It's domestic demand of higher education development, and also external demand of social development.

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