

# On the Emotional Education Function of English Literature in College English Teaching

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**Abstract:** English literature course is part of the humanities development course, in order to further promote the teaching of college English, it can play an emotional education for the learners. In the process of college English teaching, teachers should be able to choose the appropriate text for teaching, which cannot only help students improve their ability in language perception, stimulate their interest in learning English, but also enrich learners'inner feelings and improve their cultural literacy and aesthetic taste. Therefore, as an English teacher, we should be able to give full play to the emotion contained in English literature, carry out the education of humanities and emotion, guide the students to understand the profound philosophy contained in these works, and realize the characteristics of English culture and the blending with eastern thought. After all, teaching is a cognitive process and also an emotional process, so emotion is also very important in teaching, to be able to play the role of emotional teaching according to the actual situation of college English teaching. This paper briefly discusses the affective education function of English literature in college English teaching.

## 1. Introduction

College English, as a public compulsory course, occupies a very important position in the course of higher education in our country. The College English Curriculum Teaching Requirements also clearly points out that this course is not only the basic course of language, but also can broaden students'knowledge and let students understand the educational curriculum of world cultural literacy, so it is both humanistic and instrumental. And in the process of college English teaching in our country, the reform process is still deepening. The main direction of the reform is to enable students to learn some basic languages in a year and a half, and then to learn different English expansion courses according to their own needs.

## 2. Literature and language

Every great literary work of literature and language contains a very rich language, which can be said to be closely related, so every literary work will have the trace of language development. For example, when you want to know some of the methods of early modern english, then you can read shakespeare's plays, if you want to know the relevant knowledge of contemporary english, then you can read woolf's novels, and if you want to read chinese ancient english, then you can read the old man. This means that a carrier of language expression is literature, and different literary works can provide learners with the different materials they need in the process of language learning. Some literary works will have more lively dialects and colloquial vocabulary, more complex rules of speech, and even some more exciting adventures, such as the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, a growth adventure novel written by Mark Twain. The organic part of culture is literature, which is an ideal material for all in the process of language learning. College English can help students to have a certain understanding of western literature and improve the understanding of the history of the country in which the language is spoken. There are many novels about history that can provide great historical knowledge to learners. At the same time, students can also improve their English writing ability by reading some different styles of writing. After all, the linguistic charm of different literary subjects is different, but in general it can be enlightened[1].

For example, prose always celebrates some beautiful things, and novels always bring people thinking about life, drama always has ups and downs of the plot and vivid and gorgeous language, and poetry is a high fusion of the poet's imagination and emotion. For students, if they want to train their own language, then they can go to the beautiful drama, because the drama will combine a lot of art forms, and if the university offers such a drama appreciation class, it can create a good environment for the students, in which language, visual hearing can coexist, can exercise the English language skills of the students from all aspects and many angles. At the same time, there are a large number of characters in the play dialogue and scene changes, can provide students with the ability to exercise their expression, as well as practice oral situations and resources. And in the spare time of teaching, teachers can also guide students to rehearse and perform similar plays on their own, only when the students are constantly familiar with the language and action image of drama characters, through their own to figure out the rich feelings contained in their hearts, can stimulate their enthusiasm for learning. At the same time, they can constantly improve their language interest and perception. What teachers have to do is to give them room for discussion and extended learning in class, and the results are better. All in all, teachers should be able to choose the appropriate literature reading book for students, this kind of literature reading book is best to be able to supplement the shortcomings of the textbook, through a gradual way to guide students to learn and read literature, so as to slowly improve the students' language practice ability.



Figure 1 Chinese and western cultures

### 3. Literature and Culture in College English Teaching

English literature classes can allow students to learn literature to reduce estrangement and misunderstanding, because the emergence of these barriers and misunderstandings, mainly because they do not understand the culture and beliefs of both sides. Students can delight in their spiritual world by reading a large number of literary works, and also be able to deepen their understanding of the culture of other countries, so that there will be more common topics in communication, and there will be no estrangement and misunderstanding. In the course of the appreciation of college English literature, the main emphasis is to cultivate the students to have a certain cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity and cultural ability. Generally speaking, literature reflects history, and writers record real historical events and heroes in this form, which is a convenient way for foreign language learners to understand the history of other countries. After all, learners can use the description of the passage to observe their actual growth in this historical period and to observe the course of the master, and gain some valuable experience, which will be applied to their own growth and development process. At the same time, if students want to understand or become familiar with the traditional customs of some other countries, the most effective way is to understand literature, because reading literature is like a spiritual journey, through this learning atmosphere can give them a deeper understanding of the folk customs they know in the work, and can stimulate their

imagination and broaden their reading horizons. For example, Henry Thoreau's *Walden Pond*, and Washington Owen's *The Sleepy Valley Legend*, all provide easy avenues for learners interested in American customs and human ideas[2].

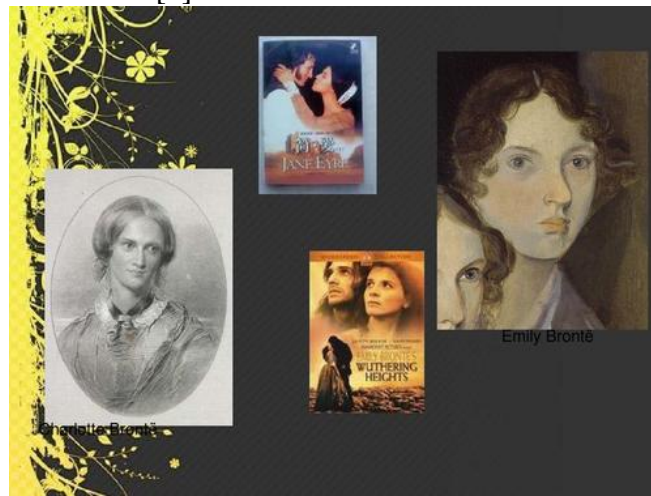


Figure 2 Literary figures

#### 4. Literature and Emotional Education in this Stage of college

Many students are at a critical moment, during which their world outlook on life is easily influenced by various external factors. Although they have learned English before, they are in the early stages, or simply focus on skills training, but ignore the two factors of culture and emotion. The environment of the university is diverse, some students will develop anxiety in the process of English learning, so by cultivating students' literary and cultural literacy, they can strengthen their psychological quality and improve their personality. To some extent, literature is a collection of narration of a personal thing, which can help the reader to experience the change of the event, to arouse emotional resonance, and thus to give them courage to be able to face the difficulties and move forward constantly. No matter what the circumstances, literature can provide a very strong motivation for learners in the process of language learning, for example, in the psychological aspect, the reader cannot only enjoy the literature, but also can imagine the role of the simulation. Literature is to some extent a medium for learners to construct the whole world in their own minds through the ability of imagination, to sketch the faces of the characters with detail, and to place them all in a more special historical period to see the projection of their own shadow through their own reflection.



Figure 3 Emotional education

The protagonists described in many literary works have a very independent personality, and they are able to provide an example to those who read, convey a positive attitude to life, and allow them to pursue what they believe to be the right values. Therefore, teachers in universities and schools

should be able to give students the freedom to read, allow students to choose the literature they are interested in, so that they can better realize their linguistic potential. In the course of college English teaching, students' English skills are not firm, and there are very few electives and expansion courses about English in the school, so this means that the school should be able to provide students with more resources in the future, after all, teaching and learning belong to a two-way process, only when the teacher thinks that the student is doing the right thing, then the teacher will feel the return. And the effect of literature teaching is more remarkable only if it is supported by emotion, so it can provide some culture-oriented courses to help students learn literature. The teaching of English literature in college English cannot only arouse students' interest in English learning, but also help them to cultivate good English habits and improve their comprehensive English proficiency[3].

## **5. Conclusion**

Through the analysis of the full text, we can know that in college English teaching, the emotional education function of English literature class is more, first of all, there are language, secondly, culture, and finally, emotional education, when students can read a lot of literature to get emotional feelings, then their English learning will become very simple.

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