

# Analysis and Exploration of English Teaching in Higher Vocational Colleges and the Cultivation of Students' Professional Ability

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**Abstract:** With the development of society, there is a growing demand for English skilled talents. The emergence of foreign enterprises and Sino-foreign joint ventures poses a greater challenge to higher vocational English education. Therefore, this paper studies the current situation of higher vocational English teaching and how higher vocational colleges use English to cultivate students' professional ability, in order to improve the teaching level of higher vocational English, lay a solid foundation for the employment of higher vocational students, and promote the development of our society.

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, despite the continuous development of higher vocational education, there are still some problems, such as not paying attention to English subjects and English teachers' low innovation ability. With the development of society, employers' requirements for workers' English application ability are increasing year by year. Therefore, higher vocational English teachers need to take measures to improve students' professional ability with the help of English teaching, so as to promote students' employment.

## 2. Current Situation of English Teaching in Higher Vocational Colleges

### 2.1 Students Lack Subjective Initiative

Among the students in higher vocational colleges, a large number of students are not to learn knowledge conducive to employment, but are forced to complete their studies under the arrangement of their parents. Because higher vocational students have the psychology of abandoning themselves without going to college and learn passively at the request of their parents, they will think that learning is useless, especially in English learning. Finally, they give up and don't make progress. In addition, affected by the external environment, the students in higher vocational colleges believes that in higher vocational schools, it is only necessary to learn professional knowledge well. The learning of English subject is dispensable, there is no need to study deeply, and the degree of learning English does not need to be too deep. Therefore, the phenomenon that higher vocational students do not study is widespread, and they lack certain subjective initiative in English learning <sup>[1]</sup>.

### 2.2 Higher Vocational Teaching Mode is Not Conducive to English Learning

The traditional higher vocational English teaching mode mainly adopts teachers to teach English related knowledge in the classroom, and what students need to do in the classroom is to listen to the class and take notes in the classroom. In this process, teachers can't pay attention to students' ability to use English language and express oral English. The requirement for students is to pass the school examination and English examination. The emergence of this phenomenon can't help English teaching, resulting in that the students trained by higher vocational colleges are not competent for the parts that need to use English in their future work.

### **2.3 The Ability of English Teachers in Higher Vocational Colleges Needs to Be Improved**

Due to the fact that vocational colleges pay attention to professional skills education, most of the financial investment in vocational colleges will be used in the purchase of professional equipment and the employment of professional teachers. There is little investment in English, and professional English teachers will not be hired. In addition, the existing teachers of the school are affected by the traditional mode and do not have a strong sense of innovation. Therefore, it is difficult to achieve the goal of cultivating students' professional ability. There are also some teachers who lack teaching experience, practice experience in enterprises and the awareness of cultivating students' professional ability, so they can't cultivate students who meet the social requirements [2].

### **2.4 English Teaching Ignores Students' Communicative Competence**

As a subject language, English has strong applicability. Therefore, teachers should pay attention to the cultivation of students' communicative competence in English teaching. However, influenced by traditional ideas, teachers ignore the communication with students. The purpose of some teachers in class is to complete the teaching task and directly omit the communication with students. It makes students and teachers have a sense of distance, which hinders English teaching. Some higher vocational colleges employ foreign teachers to teach English. However, due to the ideological differences between different countries, it is difficult to communicate between students and foreign teachers. Based on this situation, higher vocational English teachers should change the traditional teaching mode, create a good English learning atmosphere for students, encourage students to communicate with teachers, and then cultivate students' comprehensive English ability [3].

## **3. Strategies of Vocational Ability Training by Using English Teaching in Higher Vocational Colleges**

### **3.1 Innovate Teaching and Evaluation Mode**

Teachers' teaching methods play a decisive role in the quality of teaching. In the process of English teaching in higher vocational colleges, teachers need to focus on cultivating students' ability to express their ideas in English, and integrate some contents such as reading and translation in English into the English classroom with the help of the latest teaching methods. For example, teachers are willing to use multimedia equipment to play foreign movies for students, so that students can imperceptibly learn English knowledge while watching movies, and correct their pronunciation problems through movies. In addition, students can also exercise their English listening ability with this form. While students watch the film, teachers can intercept the dialogue in the film and let students play roles, so as to exercise students' oral expression ability. After watching, teachers can assign corresponding tasks and let students write down their feelings, so as to exercise students' writing ability [4].

For the dialogue part in the textbook, teachers can also guide students to carry out performance activities, stimulate students' enthusiasm to participate in the classroom with the help of practical courses, make students more active in classroom teaching, ensure students' dominant position, and improve students' interest in English learning while expressing themselves, so as to improve students' subjective initiative in English classroom. At the same time, teachers have innovated the teaching mode to make the atmosphere of English classroom become relaxed and active. Students' learning in this atmosphere will help to improve students' learning quality and enhance students' confidence in learning English.

While teachers change their teaching methods, they also need to innovate the English evaluation mechanism, break the shackles of the traditional examination mode, and put the students' oral expression and writing ability into the students' evaluation. In terms of schools, they can hire on-the-job employees of enterprises and English majors to comprehensively assess students' English communication ability and the ability to apply basic knowledge, so that students can show their own skills in front of employers and lay a solid foundation for future employment. In addition,

the assessment opinions given by enterprises can also provide some reference opinions for the future English teaching direction of higher vocational colleges. English teachers can adjust the training methods of students' professional ability according to the opinions of enterprises [5].

### **3.2 Determine the English Teaching Objectives for the Cultivation of Students' Professional Ability**

Students in higher vocational colleges will be in a highly competitive social environment after graduation. Therefore, the basic educational goal of higher vocational colleges is to cultivate the vocational ability of higher vocational students, make the results of education more reasonable and make education more applicable. Schools should strengthen their connection with enterprises so that students can have more employment opportunities after leaving school. In the process of teaching activities, English teachers need to pay attention to the cultivation of students' professional ability and English language application ability. English teaching in higher vocational colleges mainly includes two aspects: public English on the one hand and professional English on the other. Because students study different majors, teachers should make specific distinctions and focus on cultivating students' English application ability while imparting basic English knowledge.

For example, for business English majors, in the process of teaching activities, teachers should pay attention to the combination of English knowledge and the economy of the times, and students can use their business English vocabulary for English communication and interaction. It can improve students' English communication ability and finally improve students' social adaptability. For public English teaching, after students master the basic knowledge, teachers can guide students to use English as a tool, inspire students to use English for communication in their professional fields, so as to improve students' English application ability [6].

### **3.3 Improve the Professional Skills of English Teachers in Higher Vocational Colleges**

Influenced by the traditional teaching mode, English teachers in higher vocational colleges still have certain constraints at the ideological level. Therefore, higher vocational English teachers should break the constraints brought by traditional teaching, take the development of students' ability as the goal, innovate the educational methods, abandon the teacher-centered classroom mode, and give full play to the main role of students. With the continuous development of information technology, the application of multimedia and computer in teaching activities has become a common phenomenon. Teachers can use multimedia means to process boring English knowledge, so as to create a lively English classroom, improve students' enthusiasm and subjective initiative in learning English, and deepen students' understanding of English knowledge.

At the same time, English teachers in higher vocational colleges should also integrate English teaching with the society, timely understand the latest employment trend of the society, adjust their teaching based on the society, and constantly develop English teaching. For example, for non-English majors in higher vocational colleges, teachers can carry out English training courses based on the needs of society and enterprises, set up relevant situations in the classroom to simulate the real work scene, let students carry out English dialogue as enterprise employees, and guide students to introduce the production and processing process of goods. Teachers can give guidance and correct students' mistakes. With the help of this form of teaching activities, we can exercise the English application and expression ability of non-English majors, combine English with society, and further improve students' English professional ability [7].

### **3.4 Organize Students to Participate in Practical Activities**

Schools should establish and improve the cooperation mechanism between schools and enterprises, strive for high-quality employment and internship opportunities for students, encourage students to participate in social practice activities during holidays, let students find their lack of professional ability in the process of internship, and promote them to carry out targeted practice in their learning and life.

#### **4. Conclusion**

To sum up, there are problems in higher vocational English teaching, which hinder the development of students' English-related abilities and affect students' employment. Therefore, higher vocational English teachers should innovate English teaching mode and make full use of English teaching to improve students' professional ability.

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