

# Discussion of the Influences of Short-term Overseas Exchange on College English Teachers' Cultural Confidence

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**Abstract:** In recent years, cultural confidence has become the focus of the educational circle and the scholarly world, the pedagogues and the scholars should possess the awareness of cultural confidence, then to well construct the teaching and studying system full of Chinese features and fascination, and fit for the realistic condition of China. College English, as an important part of the curriculum, should be built on the basis of cultural confidence, and show Chinese culture to the world by means of subjective factors such as symbols, conceptions, values, and ideologies etc, so as to expand the cultural influence of China and unfold the charm of Chinese culture to all the people and scalars all over the world. The short-term overseas exchange is an important opportunity for college English teachers to learn the foreign teaching experience, and have a profound comprehension about the foreign cultures. Hence college English teachers should insist on the spirit of Chinese culture first, and then learn the advanced teaching experiences of foreign countries so as to teach the essence of it to the students of China in class. This thesis states the conception of cultural confidence briefly first; and then, the significance of cultivating the cultural confidence of students, and the importance of the overseas exchange to college English teachers themselves will be analyzed; at last, the influence of short-term overseas exchange on English teachers' cultural confidence will be discussed in great details.

To cultivate the cultural confidence of college English teachers can allow teachers to have a better development under the new background of times. It can improve teachers' professional qualities and comprehensive abilities on the basis of previous teaching and learning. Moreover, teachers can acquire competitive advantages during the process of self-perfection. English teaching can not be defined as teaching about a foreign language only. It can fill a serious of basic teaching tasks such as vocabulary and grammars into students while cultivating the cultural confidence of students. In the meantime, students are supposed to have the idea to carry forward Chinese culture and its great spirit. Students also should know much more about the situations of other countries and enrich themselves by learning the quintessence of every country. Investigation and short-term study aboard could let teachers have the chance to feel the cultural glamour of other countries more directly so that college English teachers could change their ideas, enrich themselves and do much better in teaching.

## Conception of Cultural Confidence

Cultural confidence is a kind of idealistic conception that China, all the nations of China and each Chinese citizen give a high appreciation to the cultural value of their own, and believe in this value deeply. The formation of cultural confidence can unite a nation, and then inherit and propagate the culture which has lasted for many years; at the some time, all the citizens should worship and insist on the culture, defend and treat it devoutly. It not only is a deeper development of humility, but also is the expression of self enrichment in culture, and it is a natural expression of subjective psychology.

## **Significance of Cultivating College English Teachers' Cultural Confidence**

With the development of times, the influence of Chinese native culture becomes deficient step by step. Cultivating the cultural confidence of college English teachers who are the tutors of students and have more touch with foreign culture is the most important task at present<sup>[1]</sup>. At present, cultural exchange between China and the west countries is increasingly frequent. Both Chinese and foreign cultures are all receiving and outputting its cultural influence on each other. Therefore, it is the necessary requirement of teaching reformation to implement the international teaching standard, to integrate the quintessence of Chinese culture to the teaching, to propagate Chinese cultural confidence, and to insist on Chinese culture and then arouse the patriotic minds of learners.

## **Significance of College Teacher's Short-term Overseas Exchange**

Nowadays, China is integrating into the globalization fast and totally. Under this background, Chinese culture, Chinese education, Chinese thought, and Chinese conception have been greatly changed. With the impetus of globalization, many counties have begun to communicate with each other in economy, trade, culture and so on; In the meantime, they learn from each other and enrich themselves. The fundamental purpose of College English education is to cultivate the interdisciplinary talent who has the multicultural communicative competence when going abroad; ultimately, they can use English freely in their work, and can promote China to have a better development in the world<sup>[2]</sup>. At present, the National Education Department not only requires to cultivate students' multicultural communicative competence, but also asks English teachers to have better teaching abilities. In the teaching, teachers should not only teach English well, but also are supposed to cultivate students' cultural confidence. All of these also ask teachers to have a good cultural confidence so as to influence the students. When teachers cultivate the multicultural communicative competence of the students, they have to plant the Chinese cultural confidence into the thoughts of the students. Therefore, teachers should have a good comprehension about foreign cultures, and improve the cultural confidence of their own. Meanwhile, they should improve the teaching conceptions, change the teaching models, and apply the quintessence they have learned into their classes.

## **The Influence of Short-term Overseas Exchange on the Cultural Confidence of College English Teachers**

Short-term overseas exchange is a great opportunity for English teaches to learn and explore foreign circumstances more, which can promote the reformation of English teaching goals. Nowadays, Chinese traditional culture is impacted by all kinds of foreign cultures. English learners begin to forget the essence of English teaching. However, the cultural awareness and confidence are the key factors that could change the learners' ideas and let them establish the correct teaching goals. Teachers can apply the advanced overseas experiences into domestic teaching, and learn the advantages of foreign teaching models so as to change their teaching conceptions and teaching goals; teachers also can adjust their teaching activities on the basis of cultivating students' cultural confidences, and get to the new ideas. Historically, foreign things were crazily popular and it is obsequious that foreigners could be seen anywhere in some periods. It is advocated that the western culture should be dominant instead of the correct cultural idea that is to combine the advantages of Chinese culture with the advantages of the west cultures. But the profound Chinese culture can not be changed by a small number of people overnight, the heritage of the historical essence of China has changed this situation, and the Chinese education circle has begun to pay attention to the cultivation of the cultural awareness and the cultural confidence<sup>[3]</sup>. Because the English teaching conception of Chinese doesn't follow the west totally, and it avoids the disadvantages of cultural restoration. Otherwise, on the basis of propagandizing and insisting on the native culture, it shifts the teaching center to the Chinese cultural learning in English. In this way, the learners not only can

learn the using skills of English and use English skillfully, but also can have a good understanding about Chinese cultural background, it achieves two things at one stroke. The ultimate goal of English teaching is the same as the other subjects, i.e. to cultivate high-quality talents who are full of specialty and creativity, and who could serve the motherland so as to achieve the great rejuvenation of China.

English teachers are the important tutors of their students; they should not only cultivate the students' cultural confidence during the teaching, but also should improve the cultural awareness and confidence of their own<sup>[4]</sup>. During the short-term overseas exchange, teachers can exchange and study with two statuses---teacher and scholar, and it is a good way to promote the two cultures to learn the advantages from each other. At the same time, they can enjoy the atmosphere of foreign culture much more, and then change their ideas instinctively and strengthen their cultural faith. Teacher is the person who teaches the knowledge to the students, during which English teachers should insist on the two demands as below: on the one hand, teachers should change their conceptions first, they should not discard the essence of English learning, and teach English on the standpoint of Chinese culture, achieve "teaching behinds learning", i.e. Whether in teaching or learning, it is of great importance to establish the cultural awareness and cultural confidence of the native culture, teachers and students should not forget that English is just one of the educational tasks in China because of teaching or learning some English. On the other hand, English teachers are the teaching subjects, and their behaviors are closely related to the cultivation of the students' cultural confidences, so the teachers also should cultivate the cultural confidence of their own, show the cultural confidence through their life and teaching, exert the important influence on the students' cultivation of cultural confidence, and let the students constantly receive the thought of cultural confidence, thereby, the seed with Chinese characteristics can be planted, and will sprout during the later learning, and become mature<sup>[5]</sup>.

The awareness of cultural heritage is the basic accomplishment that every Chinese should have. English teachers should undertake the responsibilities of cultural heritage and cultural delivery, and protect the profound culture of China as their mission during the overseas exchange. Nowadays, China is suffering the impacts of political pluralism, economical globalization, and cultural diversification. Many foreign cultures, which have influenced Chinese culture a lot, come into China as the overwhelming tides. Some people even don't identify with Chinese culture and turn to the west. Therefore, during the short-term overseas exchange, although the main aim of teachers is to learn and communicate with the overseas world, they also should introduce Chinese culture to foreign teachers and scholars during their trip, and let them feel the charm of Chinese culture<sup>[6]</sup>. During overseas exchange, English teachers should remember their historical duty of cultural heritage, inspire the awareness of cultural heritage actively in the foreign environment, and let the two cultural essences integrate and influence each other so as to perfect each other. Teachers also should take Chinese culture as the foundation, and discard the false and bad things, retain the truths and the essences at the same time, concentrate on the key factors, and then creatively learn, induce, and summarize the essences of the foreign cultures. At last, teachers should use these essences into their teaching in class. Therefore, the healthy and positive cultural elements would be retained and transferred, and researched by the scholars who could accept the foreign cultures. During the overseas exchange, English teachers are not only teachers, but also students. They should try their best to do some contributions to the educational cause of China by exerting their senses of mission and determinations.

## Conclusion

It is quite different between different countries in culture, education, ideology, and conception. With the impetus of globalization, different countries communicate with each other deeply in some such fields as economy, commerce, culture. Teacher's overseas exchange is the necessary requirement of the deep reformation of education. It requires teachers to have a correct understanding about the cultural combination and pay great attention. Then teachers can change their teaching contents, teaching models, and teaching ideas properly according to what they have

heard and seen abroad. At the same time, teachers should guide and cultivate students' cultural confidence with the help of their experiences, and teach the patriotic mind to the students in order to let them know English learning is an educational way of serving the country in future, and to improve their abilities. As a an effective way that could inspire English teachers' cultural confidence, short-term overseas exchange can not only let English teachers feel the charm and understand the connotation of the overseas English cultures, but also improve their cultural awareness and confidence, which can allow teachers to learn more foreign teaching methods and apply them into their teaching. These can help them to adjust their teaching models in class and provide better lessons to their students.

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