

## Reflections on the Idea of College English Curriculum Based on the Harmonious Unity of Instrumentality and Humanity

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**Abstract:** The ontology recognition of humanities education thought and language and its learning process has a profound influence on the concept of college English courses. In the past 20 years, the evolution of the college English syllabus in China shows that the harmonious unification of instrumentality and humanity is the current direction of college English curriculum reform. Under the new curriculum concept, solidly promoting the reform of curriculum setting, textbook compilation, instructional design and evaluation will help strengthen the humanistic advantages of college English courses.

### 1. Introduction

For a long time, due to the influence of social pragmatism and utilitarianism, the test-oriented education tendency of college English teaching in China is obvious, and the phenomenon of valuing skills and ignoring humanities is quite common. Some colleges and universities have even linked the achievement of a degree to the CET-4 exam. Passing the CET-4 and CET-6 exams has become a direct motivation for many students to learn English. The cultivation of humanistic spirit has been intentionally or unintentionally ignored in the design and teaching practice of college English courses. In fact, college English, as a compulsory language course, should not only reflect the instrumental characteristics of English, but also give play to its unique humanistic advantages.

This article intends to start with the idea of humanistic education. By discussing the ontology of language and language learning process and comparing the reform of college English syllabus in China in the past 20 years, it is proposed that the harmonious unification of instrumentality and humanity is the current concept of college English curriculum reform. And put forward some suggestions on the expansion of the humanistic spirit in college English courses to promote the improvement and improvement of college English teaching.

### 2. The Necessity of the Unity of Instrumental and Humanism in College English Courses

The need to improve international competitiveness. At present, the positioning of foreign language education in China, including college English education, should be reviewed from the height of the national development strategy. Liu Guiqin, deputy director of the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education, pointed out at the China Foreign Language Education High-level Forum held by Beijing Foreign Studies University in January, 201 that strengthening and improving college English teaching reforms will help build a country with strong human resources, especially accelerate the formation of a competitive advantage for talent in China. It is of great significance for inheriting the outstanding achievements of human civilization, especially China's excellent traditional culture. Dai Weidong pointed out that we use a global vision science to plan our foreign language teaching. At the same time, he analyzes the role of foreign language education planning in enhancing the national cultural soft power. He believes that China is currently in the process of internationalization. On the one hand, it is necessary to promote its own national culture; on the other hand, it is necessary to absorb advanced foreign cultures. Shu Dingfang also pointed

out that foreign language education should serve the “going out” of Chinese culture. With the acceleration of the process of globalization, Chinese academic and cultural going abroad has become an important part of the national strategy and an important part of cultural integration and humanistic exchange in today's world. College English teaching should play an important role in it. From this point of view, under the new international situation, college English courses have been closely linked with a country's development strategies, higher education internationalization, and cultural soft power competition. Therefore, if the college English curriculum emphasizes only instrumentality, it will be difficult to adapt to the requirements of the new situation, and it is necessary to combine instrumentality with humanity.

Adapting to the needs of social and economic development. With the development of economic globalization, the role of foreign languages in China's social and economic development is becoming more and more important. After investigation, Lin Xiaocui found that most companies require university graduates to immediately engage in work related to their major in English as soon as they take up their jobs. The English level of most college graduates is far from the English ability required for the position. This shows that the practical ability of English, especially the industry English ability, is an important demand for college graduates from society and the market. Therefore, it is imperative to vigorously improve students' ability to use English, including industry English, to meet the needs of society and employment. However, while emphasizing instrumentality, humanism cannot be ignored. Hu Xuewen and others found through investigation that when selecting and hiring talents, social employers, in addition to factors of professional ability, also attach great importance to the humanistic quality of students. For a long time, many college students have poor humanities knowledge and low humanities quality, which has greatly hindered their adaptation to social and economic development. Therefore, as a humanities course, college English should not only be limited to the cultivation of tool abilities, but also promote the improvement of students' humanities. Therefore, the teaching of college English should not compromise on instrumentality and humanity, but both must be taken into consideration.

To meet the needs of students' sustainable development. The goal of a course must inevitably consider students' own development needs. It is understandable that students have a “tool demand” for college English. However, college English courses should not only meet the immediate needs of students, but also promote their sustainable development. The cultivation of speculation ability and innovation ability is an important way to promote its sustainable development. Sun Youzhong once pointed out that in the next 5 to 10 years, one of the themes of the reform and development of Chinese colleges and universities will be to vigorously improve the quality of talent cultivation, and an important indicator to measure the quality of talent cultivation in colleges and universities is the cultivation of thinking ability. At present, in foreign language teaching (including college English teaching), due to the excessive emphasis on instrumental neglect of humanity, the adverse effects on students' thinking and innovation ability have caused widespread concern among experts and scholars. Wen Qiufang once pointed out that the current foreign language teaching in China generally overemphasizes the communicative function of language, weakens the information function and thinking function of language, and has to arouse our reflection. Therefore, from the perspective of the long-term development of students, in addition to cultivating students' English skills, college English should also promote the improvement of their thinking ability and innovation ability to achieve their future sustainable development. To achieve this goal, we must achieve the unity of instrumentality and humanity.

### **3. Requirements for the Harmonious Unification of Instrumentality and Humanity of College English Courses**

In order for college English courses to play an organic combination of instrumental and humanistic nature, it is necessary to strengthen the construction of college English courses faculty, teaching methods and teaching design in order to truly achieve harmony and unity.

### **3.1 The Construction of Teachers.**

Construct a team of qualified college English teachers to achieve the harmonious unification of the instrumental and humanistic nature of college English. Teachers should have the following characteristics: solid basic knowledge of English, understanding of education and language acquisition laws and the psychology of contemporary college students, in-depth study of cultural differences between China and the West, rich humanities knowledge base and high humanistic literacy, ability to use multimedia and other auxiliary teaching Means teaching. English teachers need to improve their basic skills and humanities in various ways. Only in this way can the unity of instrumentality and humanity of college English be better achieved in teaching practice. To achieve the unity of instrumentalism and humanism in college English, it is necessary to build a qualified college English teacher team. If a college English teacher's language practice ability is not enough, and the knowledge is not as good as the students, they lack confidence and confidence in classroom teaching, let alone lead and motivate students' development at a higher level. Therefore, the construction of qualified teachers is particularly important. Dai Manchun and others have conducted a sample survey on the quality of college English teachers in colleges and universities, and believe that qualified college English teachers should have the following qualities: good basic English language skills; understand education theory, understand students' psychology and the basic laws of second language acquisition; understand Chinese and Western cultures can penetrate cultural connotation into English teaching; master modern educational technology and can use multimedia and other computer-assisted teaching methods. Therefore, in order to improve the quality of college English teaching and achieve the unity of instrumentality and humanity, college English teachers should have the above qualities. In addition to college English teachers consciously strengthening their own learning and improving their abilities in various fields, schools should also train teachers in a planned and targeted manner to effectively improve teachers' basic English skills and humanities. Only in this way can the instrumental and humanistic unification of college English be better realized in teaching practice.

### **3.2 Design of Teaching Links.**

Instructional design is particularly important in teaching. In order to achieve the effectiveness of the classroom, we must work hard on instructional design. Use modern educational technology to teach and cultivate students' independent learning ability and enthusiasm for learning. Through the design of English speeches, appreciation of European and American movies, English drama performances, English song performances, competitions and other activities to create a strong humanistic atmosphere, let students cultivate humanistic qualities in a subtle way. Only in this way can the instrumentality and humanity of college English courses be harmoniously unified.

### **3.3 Diversity of Teaching Methods.**

In the choice of college English teaching methods, we focus on the principle of student-centered and choose a variety of methods, such as: group discussion method, project method and action-oriented method. Fully explore the connotation of humanities in the textbooks, let students understand the cultural differences between China and foreign countries, thus organically combine English learning with humanities education. Through the use of diverse teaching methods, carry out activities such as English role-playing, combine the ability cultivation of contemporary college students with innovative thinking, humanistic literacy, and constantly cultivate students' ability to cooperate, humane consciousness, creativity, etc. Survivability.

To really improve college students' English skills and humanistic qualities, the effective use of teaching methods is particularly important, especially to make full use of modern educational technology. At present, modern information network technology plays an increasingly important role in English teaching. Cai Longquan believes that information technology should be included to train the overall ability of modern foreign language teachers. The main position of college English teaching is in the classroom. Therefore, in classroom teaching, in addition to vigorously cultivating students' practical ability to use English, they also need to use multimedia network technology to

increase the input of cultural information, while fully exploring the humanistic connotation in the textbooks. Various forms such as movies, videos, and pictures show students Western culture and help them better understand Western culture. At the same time, it is also necessary to properly input the native language culture, so that students are familiar with the cultural differences between China and foreign countries, and cultivate cross-cultural communication skills, so as to organically combine English learning and humanities education, skill training, ability training and promote thinking, and stimulate innovation. In addition, teachers should also strengthen after-school learning guidance for students, such as guiding students to recite English classics and appreciating western movies according to their interests and hobbies, and actively provide students with various learning resources. For example, the establishment of an English learning website and the production of micro-lessons or teaching videos of various forms and contents according to the needs of students, so that students can effectively improve their language skills and humanistic qualities outside the class.

### **3.4 Reasonable Setting of Curriculum System.**

At present, most college English courses are relatively simple, and rarely form a curriculum system. Because of this, college English teaching is either instrumental or humanistic, making it difficult to combine the two. Wen Qiufang believes that the integration of general English and special English is indispensable for engaging in any professional international exchange. He advocates that every university provide students with a college English teaching system that includes general and special English for students to choose freely. Ding Renlun and Dai Weidong also believe that the instrumentality and humanity of college English can not be denied, but it depends on the reality and the situation. Judging from the current development situation, the individualization and diversification of college English courses has become the general trend. Therefore, according to the actual situation of the school, especially according to the actual situation of different majors and students, on the basis of demand analysis, flexible setting of college English courses. For example, some majors may consider setting up ESP courses, while others do not; some majors may set up ESP courses from the beginning, while some majors may consider opening general English courses in the lower grades and special courses in the upper grades. Use English to expand classes. In addition, according to the actual level and interest of students, various English skills and cultural elective courses can be set up to meet the personalized and diversified needs of students and realize the organic combination of humanity and instrumentality of college English courses.

## **4. Conclusion**

The instrumental and humanistic relationship of college English complement each other and are inseparable. Extreme instrumentalism or humanism will make college English teaching misunderstanding. In this regard, Wen Qiufang once had a brilliant argument: blindly emphasizing the instrumentality of English education will lose its educational value, reducing the role of college English teaching in higher education to the training function of similar institutions, while highlighting humanity will be difficult. It reflects the unique value of the English curriculum itself, which may eventually lead to the demise of the English curriculum. Therefore, in the process of college English teaching practice, the relationship between instrumentality and humanity should be properly handled, and through various effective ways, efforts should be made to achieve the organic unification of the two, so as to truly promote the improvement of college English teaching quality, in order to cultivate the country. And the high-quality talents necessary for social development play an important role.

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