Diagnosis and Improvement of Navigation English Course Construction in Hainan Higher Vocational Colleges

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Abstract. China has a large population and Chinese seafarers are fourth in the world. But the number of senior seafarers in China is not much. This is related to Chinese seafarers' English proficiency. Therefore, as a vocational college, we should pay more attention to maritime English teaching for students. In this paper, we analyzed the present situation of the nautical English teaching in Hainan higher vocational colleges, and then put forward some suggestions on how to promote the nautical English teaching more effectively according to the actual situation of nautical English course in Hainan normal university.

Sailing has the characteristics of internationalization, so English is of great significance to the seafarer’s life. As the core course of marine technology, the goal of the nautical course is to train the sailing technical students to communicate, express and co-work in English in the work of ocean-going vessels. Hainan marine vocational colleges have always attached importance to nautical English teaching. But in recent years, there are still some problems in nautical English course teaching by the comprehensive impact of various factors. How to solve these problems effectively is very worth pondering.

Problems in nautical English Courses in Hainan Higher Vocational Colleges

Unreasonable teacher structure. Most sailing professional teachers in Vocational college are hired due to the increased enrollment. A large part of these teachers are graduates from the English major of Normal University, not the students of the maritime profession. Most of them are English graduates from normal university. Therefore, these teachers are not very familiar with the professional knowledge of navigation and the teacher structure is not reasonable.

First, the teacher's age structure is unreasonable. Teachers play an important role in the nautical English course, which directly determines the quality of teaching process. According to the provisions of the state on the structure of teachers, the most reasonable teacher age structure should be 2: 3: 5. However, according to the survey, the age of nautical English teachers are under 35 years of age in most vocational colleges.

Second, the title structure is unreasonable. There are few deputy senior nautical English teachers in most of the vocational colleges. Most of the teachers are intermediate teachers. Therefore, it is difficult to make the old teachers help the new teachers.

Finally, the knowledge structure is unreasonable. In most of the vocational colleges, the nautical English teacher is graduated from the undergraduate normal university where they major in English. And they are grounding in English. But they have little knowledge of professional maritime. STCW78 /95 has a very clear standard for seafarers' English proficiency. But we have no policies for the training and qualifications for teachers in our country. In this case, the standards for vocational colleges to teachers is not very clear, which led to the quality of teachers varies greatly. The teaching content of the nautical English course is very rich. But some nautical English teachers cannot explain the relevant maritime terminology thoroughly. The teaching methods adopted by these teachers are still the same as ordinary English teaching. They explain and translate vocabulary.
first, and then analyze and translate the sentences. This kind of teaching mode based on the translation can help students master some basic knowledge and translation skills, but the use of enhancing the use of language skills is very small, far enough to meet the requirements of the syllabus for students usually communication. Therefore, some schools make maritime professional teachers teach nautical English, but the English ability of maritime professional teacher is less, so its teaching effect is also general.

The foundation of students is week. Compared with undergraduate students, Higher vocational college students' English foundation is relatively weak. First of all, under the call of the state, the vocational colleges have expanded the scale of enrollment. Therefore, a very weak foundation of English students also have access to vocational colleges. This situation will inevitably affect the after English learning. In addition, most of the maritime industry choose boys in the admissions. And boys are more likely to be lack of English ability compared with girls, and thus to a certain extent, the students lead to the overall level of low English.

Nautical English teaching plan is unreasonable. The materials and content of nautical English will affect the quality of teaching to a large extent. There are great shortcomings in the preparation of nautical English textbooks in China at now. According to the survey, the English teaching materials used in the maritime specialties of various vocational colleges in Hainan are basically written by English teachers engaged in maritime majors. There will be some incompatibility in using this kind of teaching materials. Professional nautical English textbook preparation system is immature, and there are few teaching auxiliary materials, especially the videos and tapes for some students to listen and practice are scarce.

The ways of nautical English teaching is single. Nautical English courses are not the same as general English courses. It is a course that integrates English and maritime professional knowledge. Besides the most basic industry terminology, professional vocabulary and special grammatical structure, the students also need to master a more comprehensive maritime expertise. So it is relatively boring for its learning. This makes a higher demand for teachers' teaching. Teachers need to explore more effective teaching methods to stimulate students' interest and enthusiasm. But the current nautical English teachers still take the traditional infusion of teaching methods, so that students learning enthusiasm reduced greatly.

Suggestions on Effective Teaching of nautical English Courses in Hainan Higher Vocational Colleges

Optimizing the Teacher Structure of Maritime English Course. In order to optimize the teacher structure of nautical English teachers, it is necessary to introduce and train a group of professional nautical English teachers to promote the optimization and upgrading of teachers' structure. At present, some vocational colleges advocate the "professional teacher English" and "English teacher specialization" construction. This is an important step to promote the optimization of English teacher structure. Specifically, the construction needs to be carried out from the following aspects:

First of all, we send the nautical English class teacher to professional navigational undergraduate institutions for at least one semester training, conducted training through navigational undergraduate colleges to enable these teachers to master the relevant sailing knowledge and skills. Secondly, the newly recruited nautical English teacher should be in the job after the pre-job training, to let these English teachers study with students to learn nautical expertise when the professional teachers giving lectures, or we can also send these teachers the shipping institution to practice the study, understanding maritime professional knowledge. In addition, vocational colleges may invite the relevant nautical experts to attend a series of lectures on navigational knowledge for sailing English teachers regularly. Fourth, we may require the nautical English teacher must obtain the relevant maritime professional certificate, and then on board for exercise study, understanding of the latest nautical dynamics timely. Finally, establishing the learning and helping policy between the professional nautical teachers and nautical English teachers, so that the two can communicate.
and cooperate efficiently, carry out teaching activities better. This will not only improve the English proficiency of navigational teachers, but also improve the professional level of nautical English teachers, and thus promote the teaching quality and teaching efficiency of nautical English teaching.

**Improving the English threshold of students enrolling in navigation.** Now, all vocational colleges are constantly expanding enrollment. This is the inevitable trend of popularization of higher education. So some schools ignored the quality of students in order to increase the intensity of expansion. According to the survey, there are some students of Hainan higher vocational schools, whose English scores are between twenty and thirty. This situation greatly reduces the overall level of English for maritime majors. Therefore, in order to improve the quality of navigation English courses, the sailing profession of vocational colleges can increase the English scores of students when in the enrollment, and thus ensure that the nautical students of English proficiency

**Developing a reasonable syllabus and choosing the appropriate professional English teaching materials.** English reading and listening ability are very important for the students of maritime profession. According to the survey, the vocational teaching materials of vocational colleges is relatively comprehensive, but lack of matching practice materials. Students cannot review and consolidate training timely after class. In addition, nautical English reading materials are very boring, lack of fun and practical. And some of the words after the text does not correspond to the phonetic. Therefore, the vocational colleges can be in accordance with the State Department of Transportation, the relevant provisions and requirements of IMO maritime standard communication language SMCP , to re-navigation English reading materials. Newly written materials must meet the characteristics of fun, novelty and practicality, to enhance students' reading interest and reading ability. Meanwhile, when vocational colleges are formulating the teaching syllabus of nautical English, they should not only in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of the maritime sector, but also according to the transformation of the times and the new characteristics of students.

**Allocating class hours legitimately and using a variety of teaching methods.** The development of a teaching plan also requires compliance with the STCW standards, paying attention to the organic linkages with other specialized courses at the same time. For example: the time and order of related knowledge and professional knowledge of nautical English. In addition, there is a need for increasing English class hours in a certain degree. On the vocabulary learning and oral practice, we should encourage students to engage in pairs of exercise. In the choice of teaching methods, teachers should respond to the call of the new curriculum reform, reform of teaching methods timely. For example, teachers can take a group of cooperative teaching method, and take the scene experience teaching method. And there is a need to use the modern multimedia teaching tools to produce multimedia courseware of high-quality, to stimulate students' enthusiasm and interest in learning. The content of nautical English is delivered by lengthy text content, so the textbooks rarely use examples or pictures and other information to help explain. Therefore, teachers can use multimedia to supplement the information, sum up the length of the text content and then attract the attention of students, improving their teaching efficiency and teaching quality.

**Introducing auxiliary materials and revising nautical English exam.** Through our survey, there is only a small amount of nautical English auxiliary materials in the current market, audio and video information is one of the few especially. So the vocational colleges can be appropriate from abroad to introduce some of the navigation class of the original English information, audio and video information, etc. For now, in addition to the 3867 questions from "Maritime English" published by China Maritime Service Center to guide the seafarers crew review, there are a variety of questions bank for the nautical bureau of the maritime English exam. But it is worth noting that the contents of these exams are very messy, and there are still many mistakes, strange. The students will cause some misleading. So you can make recommendations to the relevant departments, invite some teachers to correct the question bank in order to really play its role. At present, many countries pay more and more attention to the safety of the ships. At the same time, the demand for overall quality of the crew also has a higher level. As one of the most important qualities, nautical English need to be vigorously improved. And as the training of the vocational colleges, we should shoulder this important task, improve the nautical English course teaching. Taking more effective measures
to solve the problem and strive for the motherland to cultivate more and better seafarers.

References


