The Exploration of College English Teaching based on the Idea of Internationalization

Taking Xi’an University of Technological Information as an Example

Yuanmin Zhang 1, a, Gailin Liu 2, b, Haiyan Liu 3, c and Kaini Zhi 4, d

1, 3, 4. Xi’an University of Technological Information Xi’an, 710299, China
2. Xi’an Technological University Xi’an, 710032, China

a. 514729960@qq.com; b. luga888@163.com; c. 48269152@qq.com; d. zhikaini@163.com

Keywords: Internationalization; Internationalization competence; College english teaching; Autonomous learning ability

Abstract. As we continually push our education into the international horizon, we are supposed to make full use of the linguistic advantages of College English, achieving leadership in international education. Therefore, it becomes significant to explore methods to make College English courses follow this trend. This paper takes Xi’an University of Technological Information as an example to analyze some problems existing in college English teaching and explores the new mode of college English teaching from the aspects of curriculum design, teaching contents, teaching methods and autonomous learning ability.

Introduction

Under the background of economic globalization, education needs to be based on its own country and face the world, so the internationalization of higher education has become an inevitable trend. With the development of economic globalization, English has been regarded as a common language in more and more countries. English, a linguistic discipline, which is different from other disciplines, is an important tool to help students to connect with the internationalized society. However, under the influence of examination-oriented education for a long time, college English teaching still focuses on the basic English teaching, such as grammar, vocabulary and the main goal is still to pass CET-4, CET-6 and postgraduate entrance examination. As a result, the cultivation of college students’ competence of intercultural communication and internationalization has been weakened. So it is imperative to construct a new teaching mode and to explore new teaching methods. This paper takes Xi’an University of Technological Information as an example to analyze some problems existing in college English teaching and explores the new mode of college English teaching from the aspects of curriculum design, teaching contents, teaching methods and autonomous learning ability.

The Present Situation and Problems of College English Teaching Under the Background of Internationalization

The construction of "The Belt and Road Initiative" makes international cooperation and exchange become more frequent, and at the same time gives new mission and opportunity to college English teaching. Outline of National Medium and Long Term Education Reform and Development Plan(2010-2020) clearly points out that it is necessary to cultivate a large number of international talents who have an international perspective and are familiar with international rules and can participate in international affairs and international competition. Internationalization has become an important direction in the development of higher education in China[1]. Scholars generally believe that internationalized talents are those with international vision and strong ability of innovation and cross-cultural communication, familiar with international rules and the their specialty’s international knowledge[2]. Internationalization competence mainly includes three aspects: linguistic competence, thinking ability and international vision. The linguistic competence mainly contains
listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating aspects. Thinking ability means logical and critical thinking. International vision includes cultural conflicts, thinking differences and business practices. However, according to the survey, the college English teaching is still influenced by the examination-oriented educational thinking and international practice is rarely introduced. The contents of college English teaching which are mainly traditional reading and listening lack of teaching on English phonetic symbols and writing. This teaching mode leads to some deficiencies in spoken and writing, which has a negative effect on the improvement of students' English competence. Most of college English classroom teaching has adopted the traditional grammar-translation approach which is dominated by teachers and only pays attention to imparting linguistic knowledge and explanation of the framework of writing, but neglects the cultivation of students' practical application competence and critical thinking. Meanwhile, there are few academic exchanges between domestic and foreign universities. Under the trend of economic globalization and international higher education, students have only a certain ability of listening, speaking, reading and writing, which is far from satisfying their deep-seated research and learning.

Reform Measures of College English Teaching Under the Background of Internationalization

With the development of our country, there is an urgent demand for international talents. College English teaching takes on a new mission, and we need to innovate and develop our curriculum. To serve the internationalization of higher education in China, it is necessary to enrich the curriculum forms of college English teaching, expand its curriculum content. combine the college English, academic English and elective courses according to the real situation and have further designed a individualized college English teaching system to serve China's higher education towards internationalization. Under this background, Xi’an University of Technological Information has the characteristics of "internationalization, high-end and individualization" as its school-running characteristics. At same time it has carried on the reform on the college English curriculum. Through the interdisciplinary cooperation, realizes the adjustment to the college English teaching system and then the emphasis is placed on the input of social knowledge and humanistic knowledge to cultivate students' intercultural communicative competence and improve their intercultural awareness and oral communicative competence. According to this direction, we redesign college English course. In the first and second semesters of college, college English teaching mainly focuses on the teaching of universal English courses to improve students' ability of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating. At the beginning of the third and fourth semesters, the proportion of students' professional English courses and extended English courses will be gradually increased to expand students' international vision. At the same time, the following reforms are carried out from these aspects such as the classroom teaching design teaching methods and theoretical exchange activities:

First, language and culture are inseparable, and language is the carrier of culture. As an international language, English is not only a tool of communication, but also carries the important task to spread culture and thought. In this process, cultural conflict will inevitably occur. To help students adjust themselves to the impact of foreign culture, we integrate cultural comparison and cultural appreciation into our college English classroom teaching to improve students' language competence and cross-cultural communicative competence. Throughout the teaching process, various teaching activities should be carried out around the students and we constantly update English topics to attract more students to actively participate in various teaching activities. It makes students experience the pleasure of learning English, the culture difference and its unique charm. Through various teaching activities, students constantly enhance their cross-cultural communicative competence. In the Second Course of College English, international education-related courses, such as politics, culture, history, geography, humanities, are offered.

Second, English teaching should not only teach students the linguistic skills, but also give students a new perspective to observe the world from which they can broaden their horizons and cultivate their critical thinking, creative consciousness and cross-cultural consciousness.
Therefore, in classroom teaching, we adopt the teaching method of designing questions, discussing questions and summarizing questions and after class, English lectures, interest groups and English debate competitions are carried out, and elective subjects are designed to promote students’ critical thinking competence.

Third, Great changes have taken place in students’ college English learning methods under the background of internationalization. “Fish is better than fish.” Therefore, the Mosoteach has been used to construct the mixed mode of College English teaching to cultivate college students’ autonomous learning ability. Mosoteach, a teaching app, allows students to use mobile phones and PC terminals in different ways. Teachers and students communicate through this platform interaction. Information can also be shared among students. Mosoteach which has the function of uploading resources can upload different levels of English resources, and students can choose their own learning resources for their own pre-class and after-class learning. Pre-class teachers transmit the knowledge points and relevant cultural background knowledge points of this lesson and the relevant video audio through Mosoteach. Then students can use mobile devices such as smartphones, laptops and other mobile devices for autonomous learning. In the class, teachers and students have an interactive discussion on the text and the subject through Mosoteach’s functions of class performance and brainstorming. After class, the teacher guides and stimulates students to work together, collect data, and form presentation or oral report on the basis of discussion and upload it to Mosoteach in the form of video for teachers and other groups of students are required to watch, study, discuss, and make suggestions to each other’ video to enhance students’ critical thinking and communicative competence.

Finally, in order to enhance the academic exchanges between domestic and foreign universities, our university invited, Dr. Alan Cahon, President of Royal University of Canada and Mr.Papandreou, former Greek Prime Minister to come to our school gave speeches and hired them as our school’s international mentor to improve the students' international vision and cross-cultural communication. Our school built the “Microstudy” Overseas Practical Learning Base in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and created curriculum learning, cultural experience and other "micro-study" projects. We provide students with multi-level, multi-dimensional international exchange and learning platform and opportunities to broaden students’ international vision.

**Conclusion**

Under the background of internationalization, college English teaching reform is a dynamic system, which must be closely combined with the change of global economy. Therefore, we need to fully consider various factors, to explore a new type of college English teaching mode from the aspects such as curriculum reform, teaching method, the goal of talent training, to cultivate more international talents with strong cross-cultural communicative competence.

**Acknowledgement**

This article is supported by Xi’an University of Technological Information’s teaching project.
Reference