

On the Reform of English Teaching in Higher Vocational Education under the Background of "One Belt, One Road"

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Abstract: The "One Belt, One Road" strategy has received considerable attention from the people among many walks of life since it was proposed. The main purpose of this strategy is to strengthen international cooperation and promote common development. The promotion of this strategy urgently of course requires a host of high-quality international talents, which highlights the intercultural communication ability and speculative ability. As is known to all, vocational education is different from general education, whose purpose is to train applied talents with various kinds of knowledge. The aim of this study is to analyze the existing problems in the English teaching in higher vocational colleges to put forward effective reform suggestions. Currently, the cold chain logistics management major is indeed receiving increasingly high attention. Therefore, the fostering of cold chain international talents is in urgent need of the English teaching reform as well, which is also the novelty of this study.

1. Introduction

With the development of the "One Belt, One Road" strategy, China is constantly integrating into the global economic, social and cultural development process, hence the internationalization of the vocational education has increasingly drawn the attention of the people from all walks of life. Besides, under the background of the "one Belt one Road", China is in urgent needs to foster international talents with excellent cross-cultural communication skills to communicate smoothly with the people from a variety of related countries along the route, which at last will effectively promote the international trade, cooperation, win-win and mutual benefits. Therefore, in the process of English teaching, in addition to teaching the five basic skills--listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating, it is also necessary to combine the majors with English teaching. In addition, it cannot be ignored to cultivate the students' intercultural communication, which puts forward new requirements for the reform of higher vocational English teaching.

2. The Shortcomings in the Current English Teaching in Higher Vocational Colleges

2.1 The Concept of English Teaching is not Novel Any More

Many college teachers still adhere to the traditional teaching methodology. During the teaching and learning process, it is always the teacher who is in control of the whole class, while the students only passively accept what they have been taught. Consequently, the student's active status is not reflected in the whole teaching process and the students' learning initiative cannot be fully exerted. In addition to the above point, the goal of English teaching in many colleges and universities is still limited to various certification exams, rather than practically improving students' skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating. In the context of the "one belt, one Road", the teaching objectives cannot meet the needs of the times. Thirdly, the teaching materials are relatively old. Most of the teachers are limited to textbooks, ignoring the aim of international talent cultivating in the new era.

2.2 Lacking in Training in the Practical Application of Students' English Knowledge

The current focus of English classroom teaching is still on vocabulary, grammar, writing and other aspects. Listening, especially speaking or oral English, is at a disadvantage in English teaching and learning. So is the various culture teaching. This in fact has a lot to do with the scheduling of the classroom teaching. The students cannot get the opportunity to really put their listening and speaking skills into actual use, thus the so-called dumb English occurring. In addition, there is also a terrible lack of cultural aspects in English teaching and learning. As a result, for the college students in higher vocational colleges in the new era, they do have serious obstacles to acquire the intercultural communication skills.

2.3 English Teachers' Information Ability and Industry Literacy are Relatively Poor

Due to age restrictions or job burnout, the understanding of information technology is only a half-baked, only limited to surfing the Internet, doing PPT, etc., but there are not many applications for emerging teaching methods such as flipping classroom pattern, especially MOOC and micro-courses. In the second place, many English teachers' knowledge is limited to all aspects of English listening, speaking, reading and writing. Their English knowledge reserves are abundant, but little is known about the industry English of various majors.

3. The Necessity of English Teaching Reform in Cold Chain Logistics Management

It is believed that logistics plays an irreplaceable role in contemporary economic development. And the cold chain logistics (which is also known as low temperature logistics) is an important form of agricultural product logistics, and it has an irreplaceable role in people's daily lives at present. With the continuous advancement and extension of internationalization, especially under the impact of the "One Belt, One Road" policy, the role of the cold chain logistics is also constantly showing its advantages and gaining its increasing popularity. However, the students of the cold chain logistics majors have less knowledge of English related to their respective majors. Therefore, it is of great importance to stimulate, cultivate and develop students' basic English skills in their own majors.

In the context of the "One Belt, One Road" policy, a variety of countries are positively strengthening their international cooperation and promoting the common development. The promotion of the "One Belt, One Road" policy urgently requires a large number of high-quality international talents, among which the intercultural communication ability and speculative ability are being highlighted. In such an era where the Internet is gaining its increasing popularity, people are satisfied with the living state of being able to enjoy dining table food without leaving their home at all. Under the above background, the increasing import and export trades cannot be separated from the development of the cold chain logistics. As a consequence, the cultivation of cultural communication ability and speculative ability does matter a lot for the individual development.

4. A Preliminary Study of College English Teaching Reforming Strategies——Taking Cold Chain Logistics Management as an Example

4.1 Constructing a Mixed Flip Classroom Teaching System During and After Class

According to the training objectives of cold chain logistics management, it is especially vital to develop and design scientific mixed English teaching courses and formulate corresponding English teaching plans. According to the training plan of the major, the English teachers should rationally formulate and select materials related to their major such as videos and courseware to build a teaching platform to ensure the smooth progress of online teaching and learning. What's more, the teachers can select or produce 10-15 minutes of video materials before the flip class, allowing students to watch videos with their questions before class, and actively cultivate students' active learning and active thinking ability, enabling students to seek solutions independently in traditional offline classrooms, hence realizing online and offline mixed flip classroom teaching.

4.2 Strengthening the Cultivation of Speculative Ability in English Teaching

The "One Belt, One Road" has become increasingly intensive, and previous cooperation and exchanges between countries have been extensively carried out. In order to gain an advantage in international competition, having good English skills is also the key ingredient and should be attached great importance. As is known to all, English is a linguistic discipline, which is very different from the training mode of other disciplines, especially the cultivation of speculative ability in English teaching. Only when the students have a certain speculative ability can they really use English as a communication tool and become an international talent. Hence, in order to better cultivate students' thinking ability, we should first optimize the setting of all English courses, link English courses with students' majors (such as cold chain logistics management), current affairs, etc and fully create an environment for them to develop their thinking ability.

For example, students can be given reading assignments with a purpose. The teachers are supposed to find various English articles about cold chain logistics management, and ask students to excerpt the part they are interested in, or the part with different perspectives. Besides, the teachers should adapt to various situations more feasibly and can respond to the changes in their teaching process more calmly. In the classroom, seminar can be used to ask students to take turns to share their opinions about these articles and answer questions from classmates. This can not only create a certain communicative situation, but also can provide students with valuable opportunities to learn from each other. It is also helpful to help students develop critical thinking skills, which is vital to their performance.

4.3 Strengthening the Cultivation of the Intercultural Communication Skills

The national strategy of the "One Belt, One Road" is to achieve interconnection and interoperability with the world, so that culture can be brought in and out successfully. An important prerequisite for achieving these goals is the training of talents, especially the training of compound talents with strong intercultural communication skills. The cold chain logistics management major is an important part of agricultural product logistics, and it is urgent to vigorously cultivate creative cold chain logistics talents in the current times. An important criterion for creative talents is the ability to communicate across cultures. First of all, it is necessary to raise students' awareness of intercultural communication and strengthen their understanding of the cultural background. For example, the Chinese expression "li da ru niu" should be "as strong as a horse" in English and the Chinese expression "hong cha" should be "black tea" not "red tea". In addition, cultural content should be appropriately interspersed in our daily classroom teaching, so that cultural lessons are no longer obscure. In the final analysis, we can also organize extracurricular cultural practice activities and lectures on cultural topics to provide students with opportunities to communicate with foreign teachers and experts as more as possible.

4.4 Improving the English Teaching Evaluation System

Traditional English proficiency assessment is mainly based on the final test results. Yet, if students are more focused on the various exams, they will not pay enough attention to the practical use of English knowledge they have learned. While the process evaluation method is more suitable for the current English teaching in higher vocational education. In the process evaluation, scientific evaluation indicators should be established to comprehensively evaluate the performance of students, such as the length of study, class participation, and the completion of tasks after class. In short, the evaluation indicators should be as comprehensive as possible and it should be measured with numerical values as much as possible to facilitate the statistics.

5. Conclusion

The proposal of the "One Belt, One Road" strategy provides a major strategic opportunity for further advancing China's education internationalization and deepening the comprehensive reform

of vocational education. In short, to realize the great vision of the “One Belt, One Road”, it is imperative to cultivate high-quality, interdisciplinary and intercultural communication talents. During this long process, English does play an essential role. And the reform of English Teaching in higher vocational education should be given more priority. As a major that is closely related to people's lives, the cold chain management should integrate foreign language teaching resources, improve students' cross-cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication skills, and help China better move towards the world.

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