Thoughts and Ideas on the Construction of the Arabic Language Major in Chinese Universities in the New Era

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Abstract: Under the guidance of Xi Jinping’s new era of socialism with characteristics, the employment of tens of millions of college students every year in my country has gradually become an important proposition related to social development, social harmony, and people’s well-being. What factors affect students? The construction ideas and future ideas of Arabic teaching have become the focus of attention from all walks of life. After the outbreak of the global epidemic, China and the Arab world have shared weal and woe and fought side by side, which has deepened and sublimated China-Arab relations. During the most difficult time for China to fight the epidemic, leaders of Arab countries called in one after another to express their strongest support. After the outbreak of the epidemic in Arab countries, President Xi Jinping also spoke on the phone and wrote letters to leaders of many Arab countries, expressing his firm willingness to help each other and overcome the difficulties together. In the new era and post-epidemic period, what enlightenment should be gained from the development of Arabic in Chinese universities and what challenges and opportunities will be encountered? This article will discuss these issues...

1. Introduction

With the rapid development of my country's diplomacy, Arabic education has made significant progress. However, the level of Arabic education at that time was at a general level due to various restrictions. Improving the level of Arabic teaching became an important task at that time. In 1946, Mr. Ma Jian took the lead in establishing the Arabic language major at Peking University. After that, many universities including the School of Foreign Trade, China Foreign Affairs University, Shanghai International Studies University, Beijing Language Institute and Luoyang Institute of Foreign Languages of the People’s Liberation Army successively opened Arabic language majors. The pattern of education has initially taken shape.

After my country entered the 1990s, the number of colleges and universities offering Arabic language majors in the country has continued to increase, training a large number of Arabic language talents for the society, and the teaching staff is also growing. Scientific research has laid a solid foundation. At the same time, Arabic textbooks are advancing with the times, constantly updated, and the types are increasing. Several scientific research activities such as Arabic-language university teachers’ academic seminars and Arabic-language postgraduate forums are organized every year. With the help of news media and other channels, Arabic language education has been widely used attention.

2. “One Belt One Road” Boosts the Development of Arabic in Universities

The “Belt and Road” initiative aims to promote the orderly and free flow of economic factors, efficient allocation of resources, and in-depth market integration, and promote greater, higher-level and deeper regional cooperation, and jointly create an open, inclusive, balanced, and inclusive Regional economic cooperation framework. The construction of the “Belt and Road” will closely link China and Arab countries, achieving better cooperation and exchanges while achieving mutual benefit and trust. As a natural and important partner of China’s “One Belt, One Road” construction, the Arab countries have a close cooperative relationship in energy, rail transit, water conservancy engineering, electric power, communications, ports, and electronic information. Arabic-speaking
talents have become one of the core needs to ensure the implementation of this strategy. The government and the market have put forward new requirements for the “Belt and Road” international talent training path, and the demand for minor language talents in the countries along the “Belt and Road” has increased. Has become a competitive advantage for many graduates.

3. The Comprehensive Upgrade of Sino-Arab Relations in the New Era, a Historical Opportunity for Colleges and Universities' Arabic Majors

On January 19, 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Saudi Arabia. He talked about friendship, cooperation, Syria's development, and advocated peace with leaders of Saudi Arabia and regional organizations, opening a new chapter of China-Saudi Arabia and China-Arab friendly cooperation. On the 19th, President Xi and King Salman of Saudi Arabia jointly announced the establishment of a strategic partnership between China and Saudi Arabia. The pragmatic cooperation between the two sides in various fields has reached unprecedented breadth and depth. Saudi Arabia has been China's largest trading partner in West Asia and one of China's most important crude oil suppliers in the world for many years. As of June 2019, the annual trade volume between China and Arab countries was nearly 2500. One hundred million U.S. dollars.

On July 19, 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to the United Arab Emirates. People from all walks of life in the UAE stated that this is a historic visit and has extremely important significance and influence. It will definitely promote the relations between the two countries to a higher level. Development in a wider field and at a deeper level. Dr. Ibti Sam, director of the UAE Policy Research Center, said that the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership between the UAE and China is a historic moment in the history of bilateral relations. The advancement of Arab-Chinese relations to a higher level, especially the deepening of cooperation under the framework of the joint construction of the “Belt and Road” initiative, will bring unprecedented opportunities for cooperation in various fields between the two countries, and will bring great impact to China’s cooperation with the Gulf countries and the countries of West Asia and North Africa. Cooperation produces a good demonstration effect.

On February 23, 2019, when Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman concluded his visit to China, Saudi Arabia announced on the 23rd that Chinese will be included in the curriculum of all stages of education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in order to make the country's education more diverse. Saudi Arabia’s “Ab News” stated that the agreement was reached during the Crown Prince’s visit to China, with the purpose of “promoting the cultural diversity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and opening up new educational horizons for students of different educational stages”. The Saudi side believes that “learning Chinese will become a bridge between the two countries and will help promote trade and cultural ties between the two peoples.” In fact, Saudi Arabia opened a Chinese Department at King Saud’s University as early as 2010. There have been several graduates, and many universities have cooperated with Chinese universities in running schools to train Chinese students.

The deep friendship between China and Arab countries to help each other and overcome difficulties together gives confidence to the Arabic language majors in colleges and universities

From June 22 to 24, 2020, the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China hosted the special meeting of the China-Arab States Political Party Dialogue. This is a special meeting held by the Chinese and Arab political parties during the special period of fighting the new crown pneumonia epidemic. State leaders addressed the meeting. More than 60 leaders of major Arab political parties and special guests used video to focus on the theme of “Joining Hands to Build a China-Arab Community of Shared Future for a New Era” and “Party Proposals for Strengthening International Anti-epidemic Cooperation” and “Post-epidemic” Three sub-topics, including the international and Middle East pattern of the times, and the future-oriented China-Arab strategic partnership, were discussed. In this meeting, General Secretary Xi Jinping personally sent a congratulatory letter to the meeting. In the letter, General Secretary Xi Jinping spoke highly of the profound friendship between China and Arab countries to help each other and overcome difficulties together. It is solid and the prospects for cooperation are brighter. It is
emphasized that the Communist Party of China is willing to continue to strengthen strategic communication with political parties in Arab countries, deepen exchanges of experience, and work together to build a China-Arab community of shared future in the new era.

On July 6, 2020, the 9th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum was held in a video mode. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the conference. President Xi Jinping pointed out that since the outbreak of the new crown pneumonia, China and Arab countries have been in the same boat. Keeping watch and helping each other, firmly supporting each other, and developing close cooperation are a vivid portrayal of the shared destiny of China and Arab countries. Under the current situation, China and Arab countries need more than ever to strengthen cooperation, overcome difficulties together, and move forward hand in hand. It is hoped that the two parties will take this meeting as an opportunity to strengthen strategic communication and coordination, steadily advance cooperation in various fields such as the fight against the epidemic, and promote the continuous deepening and solidification of the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future, so as to better benefit the people of both sides.

4. Prospects for the Development of Arabic in Universities

China and Arab countries have officially entered a new historical period of development. On the one hand, my country’s economy has shown a new development situation. Especially since the smooth implementation of the “Belt and Road” initiative to the present, the Arab countries along the route have been in an important position of convergence, and the Arab countries’ Economic trends are releasing positive signals to move closer to China. In addition, my country's social economy is in a period of rising, China-Arab exchanges and cooperation are frequent, and the market prospects are broad.

At present, in order to cope with the ever-increasing energy cooperation and economic and trade exchanges, it is necessary to have a large number of interdisciplinary foreign language talents who have an international perspective, are familiar with and understand Arab countries and regions. Therefore, the demand for high-level Arabic talents in the international market is far greater than that of other minorities. Language majors, students who graduated from Arabic schools are very popular with employers. Some of them went to Saudi, UAE, Pakistan, Iraq, Libya, Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries to serve as translators or study abroad; some applied to foreign embassies or large enterprises stationed in the Middle East countries to engage in foreign affairs translation work; some worked as translators in foreign-funded enterprises; Some students set up companies in China to make full use of their own language advantages and specialize in trading with businessmen in Arab countries.

On the other hand, since the outbreak of the global epidemic, China and the Arab world have become more than just a kind of political support, economic support, and cultural integration, but also see the truth in adversity. Through this epidemic, the Arab world has also seen who is the most precious. Friends of, China has also found that the Arab world firmly supports China on many major issues involving core interests. This will help Arab countries to quickly cooperate with China in various fields after the epidemic, and provide students with Arabic language majors. More jobs.

Combining with the actual situation of normal universities, cultivate specialized talents for Arabic teachers, serve the national “Belt and Road” initiative, and enter the “Chinese hot” regions such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

From the earliest universities that cultivated Arabic to dozens of universities now, from the earliest training of more than a hundred people to the present training of thousands of people, it only took more than ten years for the stepped development of Arabic language, and rapid expansion has led to the emergence of teachers. With regard to problems such as faults, the level of students cultivated has gradually become more general. In this respect, we must learn from traditional Arabic-language universities. They have profound historical background, school philosophy, teaching experience and talent reserves, and their talent training models are rigorous and perfect. Most of them are aimed at national ministries, large state-owned enterprises, and foreign-related institutions. As a new type of university Arabic language major, it lacks professional inheritance.
and scientific research background. On the other hand, the school’s support for new majors is not as good as key majors, so it lacks advantages in the introduction of teachers and the use of funds. In this respect, we still have some The way to go.

According to Saudi Arabia, Chinese majors have been opened successively throughout the country, which indicates that a large number of Arabic teachers are needed. A graduate who has studied Arabic may not be qualified for the job of a teacher, and the Chinese language courses offered in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the counterparts. And the increasingly hot “Chinese fever” will bring unprecedented opportunities to teachers majoring in Arabic. Students majoring in Arabic for teacher training must not only have solid Arabic language skills, but also master how to do a good job. Teachers who teach Chinese to foreigners. This is also the fact that my country has long focused on the language ability and basic employability of talents in foreign language majors, and lacks the combination of language skills and other majors, especially in the demonstration category. The foreign language talents trained in listening, speaking, and reading and writing are all Proficient means not being able to teach foreign languages. At the same time, it is recommended that normal colleges and universities actively approach teacher education institutions such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, strengthen cooperation, and strive to achieve an order-based training model. Graduates can directly work as teachers in Arab countries after graduation.

With the strengthening of the trend of mutual dependence between China and Arab countries, the rapid expansion of trade volume, the strengthening of economic complementarity, mutual investment began to take off. Looking to the future, the development of mutually beneficial, win-win, and pragmatic Sino-Arab friendly relations has a solid foundation. There are no historical issues and no fundamental conflicts of interest between the two countries. The prospects are broad. Saudi Arabia is investing more and more in China to build factories and economic exchanges. Closer.

The “Arabic fever” is heating up throughout the country, and the number of Arabic language majors in my country's public and private secondary vocational schools is increasing year by year. Due to the strong demand for Arabic-speaking talents in the market, the Arabic language majors of public and private secondary vocational schools continue to emerge throughout the country. Ningxia International Language School, Gansu Linxia Vocational and Technical College, Yunnan Kaiyuan Arabic Language Vocational College, Gansu Guanghe Foreign Language Vocational School, Linxia Foreign language schools and Lan-A technical secondary school are prominent representatives among them. The number of people signing up to learn Arabic in Beijing New Oriental School has increased year by year. At one time, the number of people has increased by more than 50% over the same period. The 70-hour Arabic language training courses for beginners, intermediate and advanced levels in Guangzhou have broken through the small language training represented by Arabic. The situation of “English hegemony” has ended. At present, the area with the most jobs for students in private Arabic schools is Guangzhou, and the area with the highest salary is Qingdao. While these national private Arabic schools continue to develop, an important problem is the lack of professional Arabic teachers. For this reason, they always stay in place and it is difficult to achieve leapfrog development. Teachers’ colleges and universities can combine actual conditions to train professional teachers of Arabic who are suitable for domestic teaching in secondary vocational schools across the country.

5. Conclusion

In summary, with the continuous advancement of China-Arab relations and the smooth implementation of the “Belt and Road” initiative, China, as a reliable and trustworthy strategic partner of the Arab world, will carry out in-depth cooperation between the two countries in the fields of economy, trade, culture, and education. Open up a new situation of mutual benefit and win-win situation between China and Arab countries. Chinese colleges and universities Arabic majors should seize the historical opportunity, cultivate compound Arabic talents, do a good job of translation in business activities such as economics and trade, and act as a bridge. On the other
hand, normal colleges and universities can combine their own advantages to cultivate a professional Arabic teacher team. After students graduate, they can become a professional Arabic teacher and teach Arabic. Under the wave of “Chinese fever” that has emerged in Arab countries, you can also choose to teach Chinese abroad.

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