

Constructivist Teaching Theory and English Teaching Reform

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Abstract: College English teaching has been influenced by traditional teaching methods for a long time, which is reflected in the fact that students are only passive recipients in the classroom, ignoring their importance as learning subjects. Constructivism, as a recognized teaching theory in the West, provides a good theoretical guidance for college English teaching in China and is increasingly used in college English classroom teaching. College students generally believe that the current college English teaching is deeply influenced by traditional teaching concepts, and it is difficult to meet the needs of high-quality talents in the information society. Constructivism plays an important guiding role not only in English teaching theory, but also in English teaching practice. Based on constructivism teaching theory, this paper discusses its enlightenment to English teaching reform. It can be seen that constructivism plays an important guiding role not only in English teaching theory, but also in English teaching practice.

1. Introduction

Constructivism is a branch of cognitive theory, which can also be said to be the re development after the development of European behaviorism to cognitivism [1]. It can be said that constructivism is the latest western educational psychology theory which is consistent with modern quality education. In all kinds of schools, English teaching is an important part of teaching activities, but the school teaching mode is generally backward [2]. Constructivist learning theory emphasizes the learning concept of “learning centered and student-centered”, which challenges the traditional teaching theory and teaching mode of “teaching centered” and “Teacher centered” [3]. The relativity of knowledge is the main point of constructivism. Constructivism learning theory should establish a good view of knowledge. The so-called view of knowledge is that scholars have a good use mechanism for their own knowledge, but also need to process and process external information to obtain effective knowledge [4]. Constructivism education theory is student-centered, emphasizing students' active thinking and exploration of knowledge, and actively participating in the construction of the meaning of the learned knowledge [5]. The way is under the guidance of teachers, through cooperation with teachers and students, to achieve the active construction of knowledge. Constructivism innovates and breaks through the traditional education mode and puts forward more advanced theories. The introduction of Constructivism into universities and its integration with their own English education reform can effectively improve the level of English teaching and students' ability [6].

College English teaching has been influenced by the traditional teaching methods for a long time. Specifically, students are only passive receivers in the classroom, ignoring their importance as the main body of learning [7]. Constructivism attaches great importance to the construction of knowledge on the basis of original experience, psychological structure and belief, emphasizes the initiative, sociality and situationality of learning, and puts forward many new views on learning and teaching methods. According to constructivism theory, learning and development are social cooperative activities [8]. This kind of activity can't be taught. Knowledge is constructed by learners themselves, not transmitted by others. College students generally believe that the current college English teaching is deeply influenced by traditional teaching concepts, and it is difficult to adapt to the needs of the information society for high-quality talents [9]. Constructivism has become the focus of people's research and attention since it came into being, and it has a far-reaching impact on foreign language teaching reform. Based on the constructivism teaching theory,

this paper discusses the Enlightenment of the theory to English teaching reform. It can be seen that constructivism plays an important role not only in English teaching theory but also in English teaching practice.

2. Constructivist Learning Theory

2.1 Constructivist View of Learning

When Piaget first put forward constructivist learning theory, it mainly took children's cognitive development as the basis of theoretical construction and the object of research. With the continuous development of individual cognition and the increasingly close relationship between learning, the use of Constructivism can more comprehensively reflect people's cognitive rules in the process of learning. Because of the great difference between constructivism theory and traditional teaching theory, it can be said that it is almost essential. Therefore, educators who introduce constructivism theory into real teaching undoubtedly challenge the traditional role of teachers. In the process of learning, it is not only a one-way input from the inside to the outside, but also a two-way input effect through the use of some new information and the original knowledge learning experience. It can also be understood as an interaction between a learning environment and learners. The effect of learning needs high-level activities of learners' thinking to be realized, rather than simply understanding knowledge according to the process of memory. Constructivists believe that teachers will no longer be just imparters and instigators of knowledge, but should become helpers and promoters of students' learning, tutors of students' learning and creators of learning environment, as well as comprehenders and collaborators of students' learning process [10]. In the specific learning process, we need to construct the representation of things and processes, but it is not a certain copy and application of external things, it belongs to a kind of processing of new information based on the cognitive structure that learners have mastered, and finally formed.

2.2 Constructivism Learning Method

The teaching view under the constructivism theory stipulates that teachers should create a good learning environment for students as much as possible in teaching practice, and show a learning way that can be applied to real life. Moreover, teachers should give students a pertinent evaluation after guiding students to discuss, encourage their advantages, gently point out their shortcomings and ask them to correct them. In the constructivism theory, it advocates changing the previous education mode of knowledge instillation by teachers, but advocates that learning should be student-centered, so that students can freely construct a knowledge structure in their brains, so that students can actively learn in special situations and actively construct a knowledge system. In English teaching activities, college teachers should not only teach the necessary grammatical structures and words, but also introduce the relevant background knowledge and application environment, and strive to create an environment suitable for English learning content. Situational cognition, situational learning and cognitive elasticity theory have a great influence on the construction of anchored teaching mode. Constructivism holds that in order to realize the significance of constructing the learned knowledge, it is necessary to dig deep into the true nature of things reflected by the knowledge and the laws existing in things. It is best for them to experience and feel things in the real environment of the display world, instead of simply listening to some explanations and introductions provided by others.

Guiding Role of Students' Learning View In modern education, students must be placed at the center of education, especially in English teaching, which is a highly practical course, and students' main role needs to be brought into full play. Constructivism theory also plays a guiding role in students' learning view, and helps students establish a correct English learning view. Few colleges and universities can provide college English teachers with the opportunity to go out to attend lectures for further study, which leads to college English teachers' knowledge construction not being updated, unable to keep pace with the development of the times, and makes the follow-up teaching lack motivation and innovation. As time goes by, teachers' ideas are outdated and teaching

methods are backward, which can not meet the requirements of employers for college English, and is unfavorable to the follow-up study of college students after graduation. The important point of constructivism theory is to let students establish a systematic cognitive structure, and to make students explore knowledge points independently, so that students can build the structure of English learning in their own way and have a systematic cognition of new and old knowledge. The main purpose of putting forward and applying constructivist learning theory is to seek teaching strategies and methods that are helpful to advanced learning stage, which is the immediate access teaching mode. Learners can learn the same teaching content in some different ways and means, so as to deepen their understanding and understanding of the same thing and problem.

3. New Opportunities for College English Teaching Reform

In the traditional view of learning, it is a process to achieve teaching effect through teachers' teaching, knowledge enhancement and memory. This traditional cramming teaching mode is extremely unfavorable for the cultivation of innovative English talents. The introduction of Constructivism in College English teaching is an important measure of education reform, which is of great significance to the innovation of English teaching mode. The essence of constructivist teaching theory is not the gradual process of learners' repeated practice and deepening memory after passive absorption of knowledge, but the students' active construction of the meaning of the interaction between the individual and the environment based on the existing knowledge and experience. In modern society, the requirements for students' comprehensive quality are more and more strict. In order to meet the needs of society, universities also need to pay attention to the cultivation of students' various qualities in teaching activities [11]. In English teaching, teachers can not always maintain the traditional unilateral knowledge teaching mode. In addition to students' mastery of basic knowledge, they also need to pay attention to the cultivation of students' other abilities, develop the multilateral teaching mode, and attach great importance to students' oral ability and practical English communicative ability, so as to cultivate students' abilities in many aspects.

In the constructivist learning theory, we attach importance to teachers' guidance as a supplement and learners as the center to carry out learning. We can also understand it as a kind of role that not only attaches importance to learners' cognitive main role, but also defines the role of teachers as instructors in the process of students' learning. As shown in Figure 1, the dimensions of effective learning environment construction and the path analysis model with learning effect are discussed.

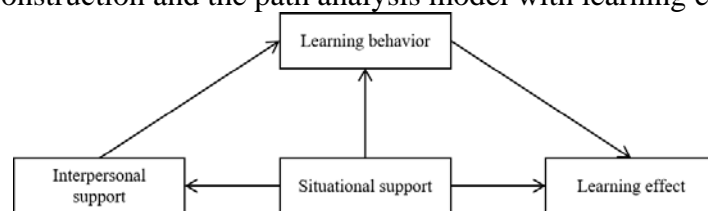


Fig.1 Path Analysis Model

Constructivism theory holds that students are the main body of teaching situation, and the original knowledge structure and degree of students directly affect the teaching effect. Therefore, how to make college students with different English proficiency achieve the same teaching effect is still one of the difficult problems in college English teaching reform. Teachers are only responsible for assisting students in the construction of meaning, and they are more like a guider holding the steering wheel during the study of knowledge, rather than the imparting and indoctrinating of knowledge as in the traditional teaching mode. The integration of constructivism theory and college English reform can guide teachers' teaching methods and teaching ideas and students' learning consciousness, guide teachers to adopt more advanced teaching methods that are more in line with social needs, and help students build their own knowledge structure and improve teaching quality. Constructivism theory holds that teachers should not only impart knowledge, but also become the instructors of students' learning, and guide students to explore knowledge deeply. In carrying out

multilateral teaching activities, we can use the way of team cooperation to set up teams to complete tasks. In the interactive activities between students, cultivate students' communication ability and cooperation ability. The changeable teaching mode gives full play to students' subjective initiative. Through this teaching mode, students can establish a more comprehensive and diversified learning mechanism and a more complete learning mode when learning. Influenced by this mode, the change of the relationship between students and teachers, the improvement of students' learning mode and the enhancement of students' cooperative concept will all become remarkable achievements in teaching.

4. Conclusions

Constructivism teaching theory is a relatively new teaching concept in the process of continuous innovation and improvement of current educational concepts. It is of great significance to apply constructivism teaching theory in the process of English teaching reform for the cultivation of innovative English talents. Under the new college English teaching mode, the new learning media based on English autonomous learning center and the traditional classroom learning media complement each other. This new compound teaching and learning method is not only a means and method to help teachers impart knowledge, but also used to create situations, carry out collaborative learning and conversational communication. Constructivism theory provides a new theoretical basis for college English teaching reform, meets the actual needs of current teaching reform, and will certainly play a role in promoting college English teaching. In the process of college English teaching reform, by making full use of the relevant viewpoints of constructivist learning theory, new contents can be injected into college English reform, which can better guide the smooth progress of college English teaching reform, and then promote the all-round development of students through effective college English teaching reform. The application of constructivism in English teaching can be said to open up a new field of education, so constructivism will also play a positive guiding role in English teaching in China.

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