“Internet +”: A New Perspective of Reform of College English Teaching

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Abstract. A new opportunity comes to the reform of teaching on the background that the era of “Internet +” impacts on the traditional English teaching method and the subject in teaching needs to be reviewed. For the reform of college English teaching, it will be an irresistible trend to build a new model of college English teaching that relied on the modern information technology like Internet and intelligent device.

Introduction

The college English reform, under the tendency of decreasing credit and compressing courses, needs to highlight the view that “computers play a ‘key’ role in learning foreign language courses”, and explores advanced cyber technology, especially the combination between the mobile Internet and the college English teaching, to create diverse network ecological environment for college English teaching, which not only interests students in learning, but also gives support to the improvement of teaching effect and teaching quality.

Organization of the Text

The Impact of “Internet+” on Traditional College English Teaching Methods and Teaching Means

The traditional college English teaching centering on the textbooks is a force-feeding education, which regards teachers as the teaching subject to impart knowledge. With the development of Internet and the emergence of MOOC and Micro-lecture, the teaching content is becoming more extended, colorful and multitudinous, and students can acquire precise language material and the interpretation from language experts of authority through the Internet at anytime and anywhere, which breaks not only the limits of textbooks to language input, but also the time and place to language learning. In the traditional teaching method, teachers are the teaching subject while students are the passive receptor to knowledge. However, the information technology makes it possible to change the traditional method in that teachers make full use of modern information technology, adopting teaching methods in forms of tasks, cooperation, project, exploration and so on to realize the transformation form “teaching” to “learning” and enter a teaching new stage of normal characterized by teacher’s guidance and enlightenment as well as students’ active participation. The era of using blackboard and chalks as teaching means now are replaced by modern, diverse and continent teaching means that based on the mobile Internet and intelligent device. The modern teaching means not only satisfies college students learning characters and learning model at the era of “Internet+”, but also improves college English teaching efficiency and quality.

Exploration in College English Teaching Model in the Context of “Internet+”

As a new emerging teaching model, flipped class is regarded as the revolution of Education, which reverses the two stages of imparting and internalizing knowledge in the pass, which requires “students impart knowledge to themselves via teaching video before the class, and internalize knowledge via several of forms in the classroom”. And many scholars have made rewarded research on the flipped class in the college English, showing that flipped class is popular with most learners and meets the
individual requirement in learning English on the ground that it perfects the learners’ information literacy and the abilities of autonomous learning and using English. Therefore, establishing and implementing a polyphyletic and mixed teaching model base of MOOC and Micro-lecture combines the excellent teaching resources with the newly emerging teaching model, which will be the direction indicator of the reform of college English.

Creating a Polyphyletic and Dynamic Learning Environment of “WeChat +Mobile Internet”

At present, the developments of college English teaching which commonly takes the computers as carrier and relies on the Internet is relatively mature, however, many problems still exist like computers are in large shape that too hard to move, occupy large space, and the hardware is aging too quickly to keep pace with the rapid development of the Internet technology. For teachers, they cannot have a clear understanding of students’ condition or give suggestions timely and effectively provided that their effective management of teaching resource depends on computers. While for students, autonomous learning fixed at the same time and the same place to get the study material fails to satisfy the need of individualization in learning process. Therefore, it’s of great urgency to develop a college English learning platform that based on the mobile Internet along with the suitability of development of English teaching and information technology.

WeChat, a product from Tencent, spreading since 2011, is a free communication application that combines multiplatform and multimedia. And due to its good characters of mini shape, simplicity and multidimensional interaction, it has already become one of the major means of communication among people. According to Chai Yanli’s research, 89% students use WeChat among those who own intelligent device, and they commonly willing to receive English study material through WeChat. With its mobility and free-from-time-limit, English learning platform on WeChat can break the one-way knowledge impartation that centralizing teachers. In this way, not only can it realizes the multi-interaction in teaching process, but also provides learners with opportunities to make full use of time for fragmentation learning.

WeChat English learning platform use the personal client and public platform to transmit files, share resources and communicate and etc. Teachers invite all students into a group through WeChat and send the study material like Micro-lecture and Internet addresses in the forms of massage, picture, sound and video, which is very convenient for students to download and teach themselves. When having class, teachers can also use the QR software to make QR codes for courseware, teaching plan and the after-class quiz, and as long as students clip the button “scan”, they can download what they need immediately, which is a good solution to the problem in tradition teaching that students cannot concentrate because they hurry to take notes. After the class, teachers and students can communicate or discuss on WeChat, which provides opportunities for students to interact with their mentors and other learners, thus, teachers can get a real-time and comprehensive understanding of students’ study and questions so that reasonable and timely guidance and individual-oriented teaching content can be given. Teachers and students can also share study material through “Moments”. Moreover, students can achieve their fragmentation learning by the English learning public platform. At present, many English learning platforms emerge like iDaily Pro and Liu Li Shuo (which literally means “speaking English fluently,”) aiming at improving students’ oral English, and Learn and Share aiming at improving skills of read, write and translating, and some else. Platforms like these kinds are all rich in resources and funny forms, so long as students clip the button “follow”, they can realize the continuous language input and fragmentation learning in their piece of time after the class.

The following two advantages appears when comparing the WeChat English learning platform (WELP) with the traditional one: colleges, teachers and students invest less on WELP, and the WELP is easy to operate. By covering the campus with wireless Internet, the school can save a large quantity of money and human resources in purchasing, maintaining and updating the equipment. Teachers and students don’t bother to purchase new equipment and learning technology as they can the existing intelligent device to download software. A variety of teaching resources and timely interaction strengthen students’ consolidation and understanding of knowledge. Teaching material such as vivid
and numerous pictures and videos and the Multi-sensory Motivation can not only fit in well with the modern students' learning particularities, but also greatly stimulate their study enthusiasm and improve their learning efficiency.

**Ubiquitous Learning Environment (ULE): Building an English Teaching System Based on Mobile Internet**

ULE means “Learners have access to acquiring the cultural information of English language needed at any time, so as to enter an interactive learning environment, and join in real online or offline language communication activities as well as getting real-time feedback”.

In mobile Internet coverage environment, it is very beneficial to expand teaching space by designing and developing an English teaching system, which combines teaching management, autonomous learning, teaching, learning evaluation, and interactive communication system. This can embody the characteristics of interaction, share and autonomy English teaching system under ULE is conducive to make the organic combination of teaching links including management, teaching and evaluation. Management function allows the teaching administrators and the teachers to carry out a real-time dynamic regulation toward students’ learning activities. The unified release and regulation of Teaching information, course information, exam information, examination scores makes teaching regulation efficient and orderly. In order to meet students’ various and individual learning requirements, optimizing learning resources and ubiquitous class teaching system is made in teaching system. Based on the core that improving language skills, the teaching system divides into three parts, including the basic courses, the outward courses and the extension courses, which has met students’ individual requirements. Basic courses include the learning of language skills, which can meet the needs of basic skills containing listening, speaking, writing and translating; Outward courses cover the learning contents of cross-cultural communication, which can broaden the students’ international horizons and cultivate the students' cross cultural awareness and foster intercultural communicative capabilities; Extension courses integrate with professional English curriculum, which play a significant role in promoting students' English comprehensive ability and professional ability. All of the courses are put into mobile teaching system, so students can select courses that they like, which ensures an individual and ubiquitous autonomic learning. The teaching system also includes ubiquitous learning interactive platform, which ensures an organic intercommunication among teachers, students, teaching resource and learning platform. The evaluation system is the most important guarantee of realizing efficient teaching regulation. Diversified evaluation systems are carried out based on the teaching system, which including diversified assessment mechanisms, such as student self-test, teachers’ formative assessment, the final test, individual language skill test, comprehensive language ability test, etc. Testing and regulating scores with the aid of the teaching system to achieve scientific standards, comprehensive norm and diversified means.

ULE based on wireless Internet needs not only the supports of intelligent terminal, network technique and software appliance, but also a cooperation of a tremendous amount of human resource and money investment with Education Technology and Research Department. Combining the operation of a reliable ubiquitous English teaching system with the wireless network and intelligent terminals perfectly can realize the ubiquity of learning environment, teaching management, teaching interaction and teaching test.

**Summary**

Reforming the traditional teaching method does not mean abandoning systematically guided elicitation method of teaching and the active interacting atmosphere. The core and subject of teaching is human-student. From pedagogy and psychology, in the long term teaching, only by using various emotional strategy, coupled with teaching methods can we give students motivation and confidence to work hard. Therefore class teaching and teachers still play a leading role in education.
However, it is admitted that "Internet +" era is a great challenge for college English teaching methods, teaching means, teaching conception, teacher's role, in the meanwhile, it is also a great opportunity for the reform and development of college English teaching. Teachers should keep pace with the times and continuously improve themselves as well as apply modern information technology to reform the college English teaching model and teaching environment. High quality teaching resources, such as MOOC and Micro-lecture, should be fully applied so as to achieve flipped class teaching and improve teaching quality. Schools and IT professionals and teachers should cooperate to build a mobile learning environment and ubiquitous learning environment, which will meet the personalized needs of students’ learning and improve learning efficiency.

References


