Application of Inverted Classroom in College English Teaching

Hui Zhang

School of Foreign Languages, Sichuan Technology and Business University
Meishan Sichuan 620036

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Abstract: With the new curriculum reform and the in-depth development of the market economy, the importance of English has become increasingly prominent, and it is also one of the main channels for international trade and communication. Rapid development of international communication serves as a driving force to promote the prosperity of English teaching in various groups. Undoubtedly, college English becomes a compulsory course in colleges, which has a positive effect on the improvement in students’ language skills and communicative abilities. In conventional class, students are passive receivers, which makes students not master the language deeply as well as lack enough abilities to apply it into practice. Hence, traditional college English teaching form seems monotonous and too conservative. Inverted classroom is an innovative teaching attempt under the new curriculum reform, which achieves a close combination of information technology. Inverted classroom can stimulate students’ enthusiasm for learning as well as create a dynamic classroom for its conforming to the new technology, which benefit to lay the foundation for the overall development of students. Combining with the actual realization of college English teaching, the paper explores the true meanings and application of inverted classroom from students’ perspective.

1. Introduction

With the comprehensive innovation of information technology, China’s teaching methods have undergone new changes. The integration of modern technology has gone into English teaching to stimulate students’ learning interest, to promote the change from original and passive teacher-centered teaching model into student-oriented form. The new teaching model emphasizes initiative learning and positive exploration, which has been constantly improving. College English inverted classroom is such a breakthrough and emphasizes student-oriented model that is a new teaching attempt and upsurge of teaching reform with the introduction of new technology.

However, the inherent examination-oriented teaching concept and ideas which has existed for a very long period in foreign language history. The traditional teaching concept helps students’ learning in a specific period. Yet it can’t keep with the trend of the times, and it has limitation in stimulating students’ learning interest. To some extent, the conventional teaching concept hinders further development of new ones. Students still lack initiative and college English teaching is still rigid, which makes the true teaching objectives hard to realize. In order to achieve new teaching objectives and let students better study, college English teaching must follow the principle of continuous innovation based on the syllabus. Improving students’ English learning efficiency calls for new teaching model and building college English inverted classroom is a new attempt.

2. Overview of Inverted Classroom

Inverted classroom is also called flipped classroom, which is an innovation of the traditional classroom teaching style, which aims to change students from passive learning to active learning. In the actual teaching, teachers are no longer the leader any more, but to change their roles as guides to assist students’ learning.

Teachers are the key of improving the quality of teaching. However, different from the previous teaching practice, the inverted classroom emphasizes the role of teachers has changed. Their role is no longer simply to explain knowledge, but acts the leading role to cultivate students’ learning initiative.
Teachers should take full advantage of their major and act as the facilitators of learning in order to better implement the inverted classroom. In the teaching, teachers are clear about the teaching important and difficult points in mind firstly. Then they achieve their teaching closely around the teaching objectives to design teaching contents with pictures, video, multimedia and other means of information technology. In such a way the abstract knowledge can become concrete and simple. Hence, students can get audio-visual knowledge and understand it better. After class, with the help of modern technology, teachers and students can interact with each other. And students can have a comprehensive understanding of the teaching contents.

3. Role of Inverted Classroom in College English Teaching

The ultimate goal of college English teaching is to cultivate the high-quality talents which are needed by the society. The traditional teaching method is too monotonous to meet the new characteristics of teaching. The concept of inverted classroom can better comply with the new need of the society and be better to implement the teaching.

First, inverted classroom plays important role to stimulate the students’ interest in learning and improve their comprehensive level of English. English as an important linguistic subject, the teaching goal of which is not just let students understand the linguistic knowledge, but more importantly, students can use it freely. That is to say, they can communicate with others with English fluently. Since colleges are an important channel for cultivating talents, how to take full advantage of class time to achieve the goal is always the hot issue. Inverted classroom can make up for the shortcomings of the previous teaching methods and create a good learning environment, which leaves enough room for students to explore on their own initiative for it gets rid of the drawbacks of the examination-oriented teaching. Students can also demonstrate their dominant position in accumulating more vocabulary gradually and improve their language comprehensive ability in the new teaching attempt.

Second, inverted classroom enriches the teaching models and creates more opportunities for teachers and students to interact. It breaks traditional teaching model, highlighting students’ dominant position because video and pictures and so on are used to stimulate the students’ sensory. Inverted classroom enriches teaching methods, and unconsciously cultivates students’ language communicative skills. At the same time, this kind of teaching can develop the harmonious relationship between teachers and students. The practice of inverted classroom can let the students preview with the purpose which can stimulate their own innovative thinking on the basis of full reflection. Then students can enhance a comprehensive ability of their reading and writing.

4. Application of Inverted Classroom in College English Teaching

At present, college English teaching attaches great importance to the improvement of students’ communicative ability, aiming at creating a good language learning environment for students. Based on the teaching background of the new curriculum reform, the application of the inverted classroom has positive significance of the improvement in students’ learning. And only integrating into actual practice, can the teaching be achieved better.

4.1 Preparation for Inverted Classroom

Pre-class preparation is the basis of teaching, and is crucial to improve the quality of teaching. It is required that teachers have a full understanding of teaching contents, teaching syllabus before class. Thus they can design the reasonable teaching process, prepare appropriate teaching props and assign course tasks in line with the characteristics of students. What teachers do is to help students to have their preview done with proper guidance. A typical example is like the following case. In order to teach the following three words: abandon, actress, abundant, teachers can create slides shows and make up a story according to the words’ meaning. The story can goes like: A stray cat was abandoned or discarded and it was adopted by an actress. The cat then had an abundant meal. Teachers can also make this story into a
small video and released it to the internet. Students can watch the animation to remember the words. In this way flipped teaching is achieved. Students can stimulate their interest in learning through the internet, which shows the advantages of the information technology. The teaching goals are also reached through the interaction on the net.

4.2 Realization of Inverted classroom

Teachers can use the "inverted classroom" to communicate with students and students can put up their problems to teachers. When teachers give class they can intentionally lead students to deal with the problem, which can deepen the students’ understanding of knowledge. For example, when teachers want to explain such a sentence in an English reading class, “America’s most famous woman is the Goddess of Liberty”, i.e. the Statue of Liberty, teachers can use the information equipment to ask students to watch the streets of the United States, historic buildings, famous interests. Thus students can really appreciate the charm of the Statue of Liberty and the overall cultural scenery. Through the method, a teaching model of reverted classroom is created. An access to intuitive experience for students are formed and students’ study enthusiasm is aroused. The model of inverted classroom lays an important foundation for the development of English reading class.

4.3 Enhancing Teachers’ Comprehensive Ability

The change of teaching model is a complex process, which requires teachers’ constant efforts and improvement. In order to achieve the inverted classroom, teachers should enhance their their qualities, including their basic English language skills, teaching level, computer skills and so on. Only when teachers grasp the modern technology and combine it with students’ learning situation in college English teaching can teaching efficiency be improved.

4.4 Establishment of the Student’s Dominant Position

The ultimate goal of teaching is to promote the development of students. In the construction of college English teaching, the students must be regarded as the main body sine they have the capacities to acquire enough information. As long as their learning initiative is stimulated, the efficiency can be improved as well as the learning goal can be achieved easily. Under the principle of inverted classroom, Teachers can encourage students to try boldly in the teaching and help them to occupy the dominant position in class. For example, teachers can let students play the role of teachers, so they can fully exercise their expressive ability in English through participating complete process of teaching because they need to create Powerpoint, video and presentation all by themselves.

5. Conclusion

The inverted classroom is of great practical significance to the reform of college English teaching. As a kind of innovative teaching mode, inverted classroom has paid more attention to the cultivation of students’ English communicative ability. The extensive use of inverted teaching in college English teaching can improve students’ English comprehension ability as well as cultivate students’ enthusiasm for learning English.

References


