Development of English Teacher in Internet Plus Era

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Abstract. The development of information technology brings English teacher the chances and challenges. In the Internet plus era, this essay tries to explore the impact on English teacher and the approaches to promote their development.

Introduction

The development of information technology has really brought great changes to the English teaching, meanwhile great challenges to the English teacher. In 2015, the state council posed the notion “Internet plus”, proposing that schools should cooperate with Internet enterprises, gradually exploring new models of E-teaching, optimizing the resources online and offline and promoting the development of online courses. It is essential to establish a system about credit evaluation and credit transfer during E-learning and speed up the reform of higher education which requires a student-centered classroom teaching model on the network learning platform. It means that teachers need to accumulate a large number of network resources, select the necessary one and then form a new effective teaching pattern in the aid of information technology. Compared with the traditional classroom, online teaching resources, such as micro lesson, Moocs, online courses, provide students with various choices both in learning form and study content, putting forward higher requirements to English teachers.

Impact on English Teacher

Innovation of Teaching Concepts. The popularization of Internet changes students’ way of learning. It is no longer the teacher-centered classroom but that students can do self-study and also the peer learning with the help of video and courses online. In the traditional English classes, teachers focus on the teaching of language skills such as vocabulary, grammar, discourse and practice of dialogues with no ideal language environment, thus discouraging students’ participation in the class and leading to an incomplete development of students’ learning in English. On the contrary, the diversity, timeliness, and flexibility of information have brought students such large options that they can enjoy abundant new language and ideas, broadening their horizon and flourishing their thoughts. Consequently teacher is no longer the only lecturer of the class but a guide and interpreter at proper time, while students being the center of the classroom, actively participating in the class. It is time to innovate teachers’ traditional ideas about teaching.

Nevertheless, it is by no means an easy job to build an effective class mode. It does cost teachers a great deal of time to select appropriate learning materials, videos and online courses among the vast amounts of resources on the Internet. It is an elaborated designer of learning objectives, evaluation mechanism in classroom activity rather than a mere performer in class teaching. Meanwhile, teachers should undertake the duty of organizing of class activities, supervising students outside the classroom and doing research in the course.

Innovation of Teaching Mode. In Internet plus era, diversified teaching methods, such as PPT, micro lecture, online learning software and etc. are adopted in teaching. The traditional blackboard teaching cannot meet the need of teaching in new period. Teachers must know how to make courseware, record audio and edit video, develop online resources and construct online learning platform, revise the arrangement of the online teaching and collect statistics to do the research. But
the truth is, our English teacher, experienced or inexperienced, take the traditional way of teaching for such a long time with a little knowledge about computer-aided teaching and that is far away from the satisfaction of modern English teaching.

In traditional teaching, teacher is the authority in the class, students daring not to doubt if any problem in the course study. They get used to receiving but not thinking. However, the new era calls for creation and active thinking, thus imposing a heavy strain on teacher. Teacher designs a certain task and students are required to accomplish it before the class, while in the classroom, they can carry out various forms of discussion presenting their own ideas, the authority of teachers being challenged. In order to facilitate students' learning, mobile phones and laptops are allowed to be used in the class. The discussions can also carry out on the Internet. Teachers set up a series of questions, and students can join the discussion in their forum on the Internet, and fulfill the arrangements with their peer companions.

**The Conflict between Teaching and Scientific Research.** In the process of professional development, teacher should put themselves into life-long scientific research as they have to acquire knowledge and professional skills to improve their own quality in teaching. But on the other hand the new teaching mode requires teachers to spend a lot of energy and time searching for and selecting information, making courseware, tracing and instructing students' learning after class. The eagerness to get promoted in their own professional development and engaging in teaching, to a certain extent, contradicts with each other, puzzling English teachers especially the youth and bringing them great pressure.

**The Development of English Teachers**

**Improvement of Professional Knowledge.** With the rapid growth of Internet, students can have various approaches to learn the so fast updated knowledge. At the meantime, the transform of teachers’ role in teaching has greatly challenged to teachers. Teachers have to keep learning new emerging vocabularies, new teaching theory, teaching methods, and knowledge to help themselves adapt to this new world. Generally, students are unable to make distinction between different kinds of resources from journals, magazines or websites to satisfy their own learning. While differing from students, teachers are superior to students in identifying the vast information resources, which is totally relied on their advance study. It is the specified ability to do the advance study that makes it likely for teachers to design a proper class activity, choose the necessary knowledge to instruct students to make achievements in English study.

**Enhancement in Professional Training.** Command of Multimedia information technology is of great significance in the individual development and professional teaching career of English teachers. Without the support of information technology, it is impossible for English teachers to innovate the traditional teaching class. Teachers have to perfect their teaching crafts in every means making the best of Internet resources and platforms to conduct the teaching activities. For one thing, it is the school that should provide specified training for teachers. Each teacher may have been in different computer levels, so schools can carry out targeted training, such as PPT production, animation and video production, web production and maintenance class to ensure that every teacher can actually get improvement in computer skills, promoting the construction of network resources and creating an appropriate online learning platform for students.

For another thing, schools should found a network platform and resource sharing center for English teachers to facilitate the communication between teachers and students as well as online tutoring and evaluation on students' learning efforts. To encourage English teachers to take an attempt of information-based education mode, the school should establish an effective mechanism of incentive teaching and assessment. The English teachers, especially the young teachers need much more opportunities for their further study home and abroad. There should be a regular communication with peers of the same occupation, gaining the timely introduction of subject knowledge, development of new teaching concepts and methods, and the practical application of Internet technology in English teaching. It is in the interaction and collision of thoughts that teachers can achieve their purpose of reforming the traditional classroom and promote the development of English teaching.
Construction of Teaching Team. Cooperation and teamwork is vital in English teachers' professional development. It is such a complicated program that it demands for a cooperative work between teachers and their team members to build up a teaching website and platform and achieve the maintenance and development. In the course of teamwork, each member can communicate about their teaching experience in adopting the new teaching mode, explore a proper and mature curriculum design, and do related research to improve their ability in teaching and researching. In the construction of team, young teachers can actively seek the aid of old teacher to learn their rich experience in teaching, while on the other hand, the young English teachers are dynamic in thinking, and have passion and courage to accept new things, making friends with students easily, which is beneficial in pushing the innovation of English teaching.

Summary

The Internet plus era calls for people with innovative and creative thinking, but not a single speaker of languages. English becoming a widespread language and not being taken seriously, correspondingly English teachers, especially the young ones, should take positive measures to enhance professional knowledge, and explore the effective ways integrate information technology with real English teaching to bring students into full play in English class, actually achieving the goal of extensive application of English language.

References

