Research of Traditional English Teaching and Newspaper Teaching

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\textbf{Keywords:} Traditional English Teaching, Culture, Newspaper Teaching, Incentive Program.

\textbf{Abstract.} There has been a long way for English teaching in China. While benefiting the many students, there are still many problems existing in traditional English classes. As a relatively new material, English newspaper is emerging as a popular tool for students to improve their English because of its various advantages. English education needs combined with the actual situation of the culture and system, found that lack of existing domestic English education on common ground, comparative education research is applied to the domestic English education practice.

\textbf{Introduction}

The 21st century is a time of advanced technology with a higher demand of English. The burst of information of the social life and the globalization of economy push English to a more prominent position \cite{1}. As one of the most widely used languages, English has been effective in carrying out information in all aspects of human life. Many countries attach great importance to English education in their educational development strategies. In China, the scale of English education has been growing since the reform and opening up policy, and the result has been fruitful. However, the present situation of English teaching is not so satisfying because it still can’t meet the demand of China’s economic construction and social development. There is a huge gap between the requirements and the reality \cite{2}.

\textbf{Teaching Status in Traditional English Classes}

\textbf{The influence of the Chinese culture.} There are many headache problems in our traditional classes, and all these problems contribute to the fact that both teachers and students spend a lot of time on English, but the results are not so satisfying. This is one of the biggest problems for Chinese students to overcome. There is a huge cultural gap between China and English speaking countries, so it’s impossible for Chinese students to learn English like the students from English speaking countries who can acquire the language by using it in the natural environment. The great cultural gap makes it extremely difficult for Chinese students to learn original English. For example, in Chinese culture, the word “politician” reminds people of righteous, ambitious and capable officials like the Chinese President and Premier. But in western culture, politician is a derogatory word which refers to the cunning, tricky and selfish officials who only care about money and social status. In the Chinese mind, the color yellow is always associated with the gold and the crown which symbolize nobility, but in western culture, it refers to timid persons. Fairy has always been the symbolization of the beautiful, kind girls in Chinese culture, while in America the word stands for the womanish male gays.

\textbf{Guideline for English classes.} Exams are pushed to the most prominent position in English teaching, and all courses are centered on exams, and the exams emphasize too much on grammar, vocabulary, and sentences. All these make language learning dull and boring. Teachers have to input knowledge that students feel reluctant and hard to receive. Both teachers and students are like trains driven by exams. The result is, the learners know some words and grammar, but when they come to the practical use, they become mute and deaf to English. This is the most common problem for
Chinese to learn English. Language is a tool for communication, but after several years of study, learners still can’t use it, which is very serious.

**Roles of teacher in class overshadow students.** In English class, teachers keep on talking and inputting the exam knowledge, and the students have little chance to speak. Whatever the question is, there is only one answer to it, and the teachers are always right. This kind of classroom role play, the most traditional one, kills the students’ creativity and activeness. Students can’t participate in the class freely and can just wait for teachers to teach them. Students should learn to show their own opinions about the text they learn, and they could practice giving public speeches and telling English stories to the whole class [3]. English class should be a place with challenges, responsibilities and laughter, but with the teacher’s overshadowing roles, students can’t do anything but listen. Day after day, students lose their desire to participate in the class.

When teachers and students focus on exams, they put most of the time in preparing it. When the students’ score improves, teachers feel happy that the students’ ability improved, which is not the fact. Most students still can’t understand what a foreigner says, let alone have smooth communication. In traditional English class, most language used are Chinese. Students’ ability for exams are fully trained, but the ability for communication is totally ignored, which should be the real purpose for learning English. Therefore, after several years of study, students can’t communicate with foreigners smoothly.

The Development of Cultural English Teaching

**Accuracy of expression.** The expression of China culture of English vocabulary should be accurate, not just make up. From the beginning of the end of nineteenth Century, Gu Hongming, Chen Ji, with Lin Yutang and a number of scholars have published books from abroad were introduced China culture earlier in English, many foreigners understand China culture also began reading their work. English usage of some cultural terms China these scholars proposed earlier has now been generally accepted by the academia at home and abroad, we should be aware of these words has been recognized, and use them correctly in English communication.

**Refinement of intercultural communication.** For some Chinese cultural words that do not have a fixed English, we should use the refined language in intercultural communication. The so-called refined, is to use simple words, we should not use some of the more obscure words mechanically the dictionary to communication. The use of the language should also be in line with the English expression habits, as far as possible to avoid "Chinglish". Different nations have different cultures, and there are both connections and differences between different cultures. The difference between culture and personality constitutes a barrier to translation, which leads to untranslatability [4].

**Various teaching methods.** With the rapid development of educational technology, multimedia resources should be used in teaching as much as possible. The network curriculum contains a large number of pictures, audio and video resources and interactive network teaching platform, providing students with a wealth of classroom learning and self-learning resources, is an ideal network resources. In addition, there are a lot of good websites about Chinese culture on the Internet. The author introduces them to the students in the course of teaching, and encourages them to browse after class to get some information about the subject.

In order to enliven the classroom can organize students such as China cultural drama and traditional culture English Chinese works show and other activities, encourage students to use English to China cultural drama, the individual works, not only help to guide the students in practice to learn knowledge, but also help to improve the culture and the comprehensive quality of students.

Advantages of English Newspapers in English Teaching

**Help of doing better in English exams.** Newspapers provide a wide range of materials for students to read, and all the reading materials are examples of concise and fine writings. Through English newspaper class, students can not only learn new words, grammar and classical sentences,
but also practice reading speed and reading skills, which surely help them to enhance their competence in the reading comprehension part in exams. And the fine writings gradually influence their way of writing.

**Enabling students to keep up with the modern time.** Students are young and energetic, and they are in pursuit of the fresh things, not only material things but also fashion in talks. In the modern time there are always the latest fashionable words which attract the student, because when they talk like this, others will admire them. For example, “knock-out” means fake commodities, “mortgage slave” refers to people who have to pay back the bank loans monthly to buy a house, and “smilence” means smile in silence. When the students read the new word in the newspaper, they would feel that they are keeping up with the latest fashion, and they would show up the new words that they learned, which would in turn make them confident and encourage others to read the newspaper and learn these words.

All the articles and comments on the newspaper are in English, which would force the students to immerse themselves in the all-English environment. At the beginning, students would feel hard to read and understand the articles and comments, but after practice, they would dare to challenge themselves to the language, during which process their adversity quotient would be improved [5]. The all-English environment on the newspaper would help them do better in written tests.

**Encouraging different ways of thinking.** Reports on the same event can be quite different because different reporters have various beliefs and values [6]. And sometimes even if all the reporters hold a-matter-of-fact attitude, they still have different ideas towards the same thing. Thus, through newspaper reading, teachers can guide students to analyze and comment on the reporters’ opinions. This process will change their negative acceptance to critical thinking, and result in students’ independent thinking, which is surely important in learning, but has long been lack in China. Based on the facts and their analysis, students form their own ideas. Students can also practice logical thinking in this process.

Students have to work hard all the time to pass exams. They have to sit in the classroom, recite English words, study grammar knowledge and read English text books. Students often get bored with text books, but they are eager to read the articles in newspapers. The articles in newspapers are stories happening around the world. Though a little difficult, students are interested in the contents. Through reading these articles, students will gradually get interested in English.

**Incentive Program Analysis**

**Mind broadening.** Students are quite busy with their study, and they don’t know much about the current events and the entertainment news. But English newspapers provide them an opportunity to read current events and entertainment news. Every student can find something interesting to read and broaden their mind.

**Independent thinking exercise.** The different columns and different views towards the same issue would provide opportunities to improve their independent thinking. In traditional class, students learn the remember the right opinion, but in newspaper class, students find themselves in a greater space where different opinions can be spoken out if they like, and the different opinions are not treated as wrong but innovative. Students grow up to be independent thinkers and no longer follow others blindly. What’s more, the various topics can be used in the after-class time, for example, in English corners, in students’ English conversation times to improve their oral English. The latest topics can not only inform the students the latest news but also provide opportunities to speak English out. Students can use the words they learn in the newspaper and express their own opinions. English newspapers becomes a living textbook anywhere and anytime when students want to learn English.

In conclusion, English newspaper teaching helps to turn teachers’ over-attention on the teaching of grammar, vocabulary and ignorance of students’ practical ability to the education which can bring out students’ interest and potential and finally their ability of using English to a fairly good standard. English classes should be students-centered and interest-oriented. English newspaper teaching encourages teachers to lead a new teaching style that involves participation, cooperation and
communication to develop students’ comprehensive language competence. As a result, learners’ positive attitude, initiative thinking and brave practice will be activated, which promote the formulation of the self-study ability and enhancement of the cross-cultural communication.

**Conclusions**

With the change of world politics and economy, the globalization of education, cultural diversity and the post-modernism theory "force" into comparative education research, has caused profound changes and a full range of comparative education research field. It provides a new thinking for the study of comparative education in the method and point of view of change. In this regard, we should look at the current situation of foreign comparative education research, and actively reflect on the future development of comparative education research in China.

**References**