Discussion on the Reform of the Bilingual Teaching of Marine Engineering in Higher Vocational Colleges

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ABSTRACT

Implementation of bilingual teaching in marine engineering major in higher vocational colleges has far-reaching significance for sustainable development of professional disciplines and training of internationally competitive talents with foreign language and expertise. This paper discusses the necessity and problems of bilingual teaching in Marine Engineering in higher vocational colleges. It puts forward solutions based on the author's work experience for colleagues.

KEYWORDS

Bilingual teaching, Marine engineering, reform.

INTRODUCTION

With the "The Belt and Road" strategy of continuous implementation of maritime personnel demand gap will increase year by year, and the talent is an important resource of any strategy in the implementation process. Nautical education is responsible for the training of seafaring talents, and English is an industry language set by the international maritime organization. Seafarers' English level is a reflection of their ability to work. And their English ability is also related to the normal production and operation of ships, as well as the safety of marine life, property and the marine ecosystem. In international trade, more than 90% of cargo transportation is realized by means of sea transportation. [1] International shipping industry needs a large number of international talents who are proficient in English and familiar with business. Teachers and administrators of marine engineering should think about how to cultivate such international talents. Bilingual teaching mode is regarded as an important part of the reform of personnel training mode in Colleges and universities. This mode plays an irreplaceable role in promoting the process of education internationalization and cultivating creative and compound extroverted talents.

THE NECESSITY OF BILINGUAL TEACHING FOR MARINE ENGINEERING

The model of bilingual teaching is very important for the teaching of international majors. The major of marine engineering in higher vocational colleges is a typical example of international specialty. Marine engineering is the international practice, and highly professional occupation. The employees come from different countries.

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They use English in the daily work and life. They need to communicate with the port state control officer (PSCO) in English when they accept the inspection in a port. If the PSCO found that the crew English application ability is poor and unable to work, it will be classified as unqualified written inspection report. Then the ship will face penalties which will adversely affect the company's reputation and business. In addition, the international conventions have also raised higher requirements for the English level of seafarers. The STCW Convention (International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers) is a supreme code established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and revised for the purpose of regulating seafarers' education and training in the world. The STCW78/10 convention has made a high demand for the ability of the seafarers to use English. This allows shipping companies to pay more attention to the students' foreign language level than the professional ability in the recruitment of engineering majors. [2]

Thus, both the industry requirements for marine engineering personnel post ability, or the International Convention on the seafarers' English application ability standard, reflects the importance of English major students in marine engineering, so maritime colleges reasonably and effectively carry out bilingual teaching of this course is very necessary, the comprehensive quality of bilingual teaching can improve the students' English the international shipping company in order to meet the demand for talent, but also improve the international competitiveness of graduates majored in marine engineering. [3]

THE PROBLEMS FACED BY BILINGUAL TEACHING

Shortage in High Level Bilingual Teachers

In addition to having rich and exquisite professional knowledge, bilingual teachers must have a solid foundation in foreign language. The marine engineering industry is hard. It will cost ten years for the training period to cultivate an excellent chief engineer. The graduates from English major are lack of experience in enterprise's learning. There will be a phenomenon: the proficient person’s English level is not high enough, but the English proficient person’s professional level is not high enough. It has led to the shortage of high level bilingual teachers in engineering. [4]

The Lack of Bilingual Teaching Materials

In the selection of textbooks, the author believes that the original English teaching materials have great effect on students' English improving but the marine engineering is different from other majors. After learning professional courses, the students should pass the crew certificate exam. The exam outline is different from the knowledge of the foreign. Therefore, copying the foreign materials directly is not feasible. But it is difficult to compile the English edition of the professional course for the professional teachers of marine engineering.

The Students Are Weak in English

In order to reduce the influence of human factors in the college entrance examination, there is no dialogue assessment in English test, which also makes students
neglect the importance of oral learning in middle school English learning. So the listening level will also be affected. The professional materials of marine engineering is new knowledge, which is somewhat difficult. Coupled with bilingual teaching, it is easy for students to lose heart because they cannot keep up with the rhythm of teachers.

**The System of Assents and Reward Is Not Perfect**

The effect of bilingual teaching needs to be assessed in two aspects: students and teachers. Some assessment methods are outdated and lack of scientific which cannot reflect the true teaching level and quality of teachers. In addition, compared with ordinary professional teachers, bilingual teachers should pay a lot of time and effort to complete bilingual teaching tasks. But in reality, it is disproportionate of bilingual teachers' pay and harvest. They have not been paid enough attention. All these will affect the quality and enthusiasm of teachers in bilingual teaching.

**SOLUTION**

**Strengthen the Training of Bilingual Teachers**

At present, teachers in maritime vocational colleges are lack for bilingual teaching. In this case, we can carry out English training for teachers who have good ability in English. In the long run, the training bilingual teachers should also develop a system and it has diversified development such as hiring foreign teachers, regular bilingual teaching skills training, support and encourage teacher’s especial young teachers to strengthen their bilingual ability. [5]

**Improve the Students’ Interest and Level of English**

Schools should encourage the use of English for example opening a regular English exchange field, organizing English related competitions every semester, organizing English activities in class, and creating an atmosphere of English learning. On the bilingual teaching of professional courses, it can be combined with modern teaching methods such as our "propulsion" course has been set up quality online courses. The students can visit the website for lectures to preview and review of bilingual courses. It can ensure the students master the relevant professional knowledge.

**The Development of Bilingual Teaching Materials**

Bilingual teaching is a professional and a carrier of language knowledge. When we select the bilingual teaching materials we must consider that the materials can reflect the professional characteristics of marine engineering. In view of marine engineering majors must be carried out in accordance with the teaching and training of the China Maritime Safety Administration to develop seafarer education and training syllabus. We cannot copy the original English teaching materials in accordance with the needs of Higher Vocational Education in our country. We should make corresponding adjustments according to the policy and practical professional courses in China. The author believes that the best way is organizing the professional teachers with high English proficiency in similar universities in China to jointly compile bilingual quality
textbooks that meet the requirements of China Maritime Safety Administration and meet the requirements of international conventions and Chinese seafarers.

Formulate the System of Assessment and Reward

As an educational innovation, some maritime universities are exploring and trying to carry out bilingual teaching for marine engineering majors, but how bilingual teaching level is lack of a scientific and reasonable evaluation system. The establishment of evaluation system is not only to supervise and manage bilingual teaching, but also to evaluate the effect of bilingual teaching. So as to make timely and effective adjustment of bilingual teaching. In addition, the bilingual teaching of the school cannot be carried out without policy support. Compared to the ordinary teachers of professional courses, bilingual teacher spent much more time to prepare the class. The school should give some policy incentives such as conferring of academic titles, teaching workload, and personal annual assessment. Formulating the system of assessment and reward can stimulate more teachers attend into the bilingual teaching. And then the bilingual teaching has long-term effectiveness and stability. [6]

CONCLUSION

Bilingual teaching for marine engineering majors is not only related to students' personal prospects, but also to the safety and long-term development of shipping industry in China and the world. The bilingual teaching mode conforms to the current international education development tide. It is the inevitable trend of the development of China's education reform in line with international standards. We should improve the English ability of the crew in our country and cultivate more international seafaring talents in accordance with the requirements of the modern times. Provide support to the "The Belt and Road" construction and make our country become the world shipping power.

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