Study of Internationalization Military English Teaching

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Keywords: Internationalization, Military flight English, Ability cultivation, Suggestion.

Abstract. The language ability is a very important component of internationalization military flight talents’ comprehensive quality. This paper analyzed the feature and requirement of military flight English, and also analyzed the foreign language cultivation of civil flight cadets based on teaching modes, teaching process, textbook construction, and testing criterion, and gave some suggestions on military flight English teaching.

Introduction

With the increasing development of our military mission and foreign communication, the military foreign languages as an important part of the cultivation of military talents comprehensive quality, are paid more attention \cite{1}. “The military foreign language and technique are not only a new military talent’s quality, but also a kind of battle effectiveness” \cite{2}. There are more and more commanders and pilots take part in the International military exercises, humanitarianism assistance, antiterrorism and peacekeeping, which requires the pilots master a certain English communicating ability. Kang Zhihui with others combined the characters of pilots and explored the new mode of English teaching in the flight colleges; Wei Ting compared the college English and flight English together and presented the learning strategies; Wu Jie with others analyzed differences between the characters of military English and college English and discussed their effective combination. This paper is based on the author’s feeling and experience of military English training, military communication, foreign military educational training translations and edits, according to the analysis of the character of military flight English, civil flight English teaching practice, tries to give the suggestions to military flight English teaching \cite{3, 4}.

The Features and Requirements of Military Flight English

Military flight English serves to military flight and the development of battle effectiveness the abundance of military flight activities decides that English has been formed a set of self-special feature. Due to the complexity of aircraft system and particularity of military flight, military flight English covers many specialties, such as flight system, computer communication, navigation, meteorology, ATC, the construction and management of airport, military activities,
operational commanding and so on. So, on one hand, military flight English belongs to EST, on the other hand, it has vivid military feature.

**The Characters of Military Flight English**

Military flight English, as a subset of military English, inherited the characters of military English. Specifically, it includes the following aspects:

1. Many abbreviations, such as AETC, CTS, ASAP, IAW and so on;
2. Many terms, such as Barrack is the dormitory in the army, instead of Dormitory;
3. Many code names, such as code numbers, 26 code letters;
4. The certain meaning in a certain context, such as Magazine, abbr. Mag. Taxi refers to taxiway;
5. Concision and briefness, especially in the countersigns, orders, communication and reports, such as Roger, over and so on.
6. Oral expression is humorous and full of emotion, such as call wing plane by pet’s names.

**The Requirement of Military Flight English**

The main using environment of flight English is radio communication, compared with civil flight, which is used on ground radio communication, military flight English also includes lead aircraft and wing plane, battle aircraft and the radio communication of rear command. Radio communication is a half man-made language which is based on English, the figure is standardization. The use of standard language can guarantee the communication of pilots, pilots and commander, to avoid error, and make sure the accurate judgment and correction understanding.

During the flight, it is a high requirement to transmit the information by radio communication, so we should regulate our words, select brief and precise words and communicating procedure. ICAO has regulated a series of regulations strictly, the main part consists of Convention on International Civil Aviation, appendix 10 Aviation Telecom, Rules of the air & ATS, Radio call handbook, etc.. These documents not only introduce the conceptions of radio communication, requirement and main terms, but also describe the standard terms to help pilots’ application.

**The Foreign Language Cultivation of Civil Pilot Cadets**

For a pilot, the most popular and exigent language application is the communicating function of English. In order to realize the save and effective aviation communication, one pilot should have three following English communicating abilities: (1) the capability of specialized vocabulary of radio communication; (2) aviation application English capability (3) the general application of English. Only pilot has these three English communicating abilities, can he set a good security condition under various flight circumstances. Among them, the most essential and relevant one is the specialized vocabulary of radio communication. At the same time, there are many unpredictable special circumstances in the flight and the specialized vocabulary of radio communication cannot cover all the flight states and information, so the pilot should master the communicating ability, which can send and receive flying information.

The Long-term Projection of Talent Team Construction in the Civil Aviation points that in the development of a new economic society, the general scale and quality of talent team construction in the civil aviation cannot adapt to the sustained development and face to the need of international competition completely, mainly represents in the following aspects: the
inconsequence of talent structure, lack of high level and professional international talents, the
deficiency of human resource exploitation, etc.. Compared with the layout, the Aviation
College of CAAC thought that the main quality of cultivating international flight talents
includes “patriotic and dedicated, professional knowledge, international standard, international
horizon, language ability, multiple culture”, by constructing crossing-cultural communication
center, strengthen human resources construction to realize the cultivation of international
talents. On the language cultivating aspect, we emphasize on the ability of language application,
but due to the limitation of the teachers, there are still 40-persons classes in each semester (there
are only 12 to 14 persons in each class in New Zealand, it is considered that if there are less than
12 persons one class, the atmosphere cannot be active; more than 14 persons, the organizer
cannot ensure everybody has the chance to speak in 50 mins).

Feature One: The Unity of Flight Cadets English Teaching Mode

The integration of civil flight English teaching and college English teaching, in the teaching
practice, there are two important and different modules, one is the module of college English,
and another is the module of civil flight English [5]. The college English emphasizes on
students’ ability of speaking, listening, reading and writing, but the context is mainly around the
civil flight background, which emphasizes on the ability of civil flight communication, in a
certain extent, it abandoned the syllabus-oriented mode and explored a new way of teaching in
accordance with school’s situation, students’ aptitude and need.

Feature Two: English Covers Big Proportion in All Training Process of Flight Cadets.

Civil Flight College considers the English communicating ability is the second important
ability, the training goes through the whole process of talent-cultivation, and even in the letter of
admission, there is a letter called to all new students about English learning, which lead all
newcomers to know the importance of English. Otherwise, the Civil Flight College has Xin Jin
School, Guang Han School, Luo Yang School, Mian Yang School, and Sui Ning School in five
cities of Si Chuan and He Nan Province. Under the circumstance of wide extension of schools
and talent-cultivation, English teaching goes through the whole cultivating process.

Feature Three: Teaching by the Self-Administered Textbooks.

The flight cadets learn the self-administered textbooks, the Dialogue Record of International
Civil Flight Airline, Chinese Civil Flight Personnel English. There are four features of these
textbooks, firstly, standard. The standard refers to the content must accordance with the
International Civil Flight Standards, mainly refers to the ICAO standard terms and procedures;
Secondly, trueness. It means the dialogue and data record of the textbook should be true and
reliable [6]. Thirdly, integration. The civil flight English is based on the college English and
integrated with the need of civil flight English. Fourthly, richness. The content of the textbook
is substantiated, the exercises and corpus-building are rich, only in this way, can students get
enough language inputs and the chances of practice.

Feature Four: There Should Be Clear and Practical Assessing Criterion in Language
Training.

The Civil Flight College doesn’t require all cadets pass CET-4 and CET-6, but in order to
improve their radio communicating ability, according to the job-requirements, everyone must
pass ICAO examination, which includes pronunciation, vocabulary, syntax, fluency,
comprehensive ability and communicating ability. Meanwhile, the air traffic controllers must pass AETS. They try to realize the unification and correspondence of learning, checking and applying [7].

Suggestions

Constructing a Training System Which Goes Through the All Process of Flight Cadets Training

Recently, the foreign language training of Aviation University cadets is mainly in the freshman and sophomore years, but there is no English teachers in their major-study and flight period, so according to the feature of language learning, in order to keep the language application continuously, it is suggested that bilingual teaching is widely used in the major-study, assign military flight English and assign English teachers to the flight training base. We can realize the language training system of basic education, aviation theory education and flight education.

Constructing Military Flight Corpus and Self-Administered Textbooks

The native language material is the most vivid, real and practical learning materials, which can improve and test learners’ practical ability. It is suggested to build a corpus and process informationization to make cadets adapt to learn on the menu way of the real flight conditions, such as different situations, different countries, and different radio communications, which is based on the standard and regulations.

Constructing the English Exam Criterion of Military Flight Feature

Recently, the test of flight cadets is CET-4, and the pass-rate is increased these years, but according to the situation of the joint exercise, there is still a distance between foreign language level and flight practice. It is suggested to consult ICAO to set radio communication test standard of military flight pilots. Firstly, we should set “military flight communicating of ground and air exam standard” and “military flight communicating of air exam standard”. Twice a year, one who passed will get certificate as a certification of military English level. According to the test situation, we combine academic education, vocational education and short training together as one system, and spread to the whole army and pilot English level test.

Constructing the International Pilot Cadets Class

According to differences of need and ability of English, to realize learning precision, it is suggested that we may construct and select the international pilot cadets class based on cadets self study, under the background of combat drill, to practice the English practical application ability. On the aspects of listening and speaking, we are trying to realize teaching mode which is accordance with the students and the need.
Strengthen the Construction of Teaching Team

If it is allowed, on one hand, we should consider to invite the foreign retired military flight staff as language instructors, at least, to invite the pilots who took part in the joint exercise and international mission as a lecture instructor, and organize teachers-training every year. On the other hand, we can select some excellent foreign language teachers, major teachers and pilots to go abroad and take participate in the major study, join in different levels of language cultivating pertinently.

Strengthen the Theoretical Research of Military Flight English.

In China, the research of military English is mainly focused on the translation of vocabulary, weapons and equipments, and army organization, but the research of military flight English teaching is much less. As a source of military talents cultivating, the standard on military flight English course set should be designed, textbook-compile, application, test-criterion, and combine the study of college teaching research, argumentum in multi aspects and multi-angle of view and developing teaching theoretical practice.

Summary

It takes ten years to grow trees but a hundred years to rear people. The development of education is a sequential process, the formation of military flight English teaching system proceed in an orderly way. But our military mission has led a clear direction for the flight talents training. Stones from other hills may serve to polish the jade of this one. Learnt from civil flight, we have strengthened the study of military flight talents teaching and cultivated international military flight talents.

References


