On the Integration of College English Teaching and Ideological Education

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ABSTRACT

It is an important task for college English teachers to promote the organic integration of college English teaching and ideological education. This paper expounds the connotation and characteristics of ideological education, analyzes and studies the significance of the integration of college English teaching and ideological education in order to provide some help for opening up the space of ideological education in colleges and universities and innovating the working methods of ideological education in colleges and universities.

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language, and the purpose of college English teaching is to help students get a good command of the language, understand English culture, improve comprehensive cultural literacy and grow into a talent in cross-cultural communication. In language teaching, the infiltration of international, historical, cultural and other related knowledge content can help students correctly understand China’s national conditions, history and characteristics; the comparison with other countries can help students objectively and profoundly understand contemporary China, so that they can establish cultural and moral self-confidence when facing the outside world. On the premise of adhering to the characteristics of the subject, the integration of college English teaching and ideological education can promote the effective
combination of the contents of the subject and ideological contents, and build an ideological education construction system suitable for English discipline. Therefore, it is of great theoretical and practical significance to explore the integration of college English teaching and ideological education.

OVERVIEW OF IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ideological education is not a specific course or a specific type of courses, but refers to a kind of education and teaching philosophy. Basically, it means that each course of university can realize the dual functions of imparting knowledge, cultivating ability and ideological education, and can play an important role in cultivating college students’ values. Ideological education is also a way of thinking. Teachers should consciously, purposefully and effectively carry out ideological education for students in teaching, incorporate ideological education into the curriculum in teaching design, and promote the organic integration with professional development education. Ideological education helps to enhance the ideological functions and political functions of university courses, and integrates the education of the core values of socialism into all aspects of teaching.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INTEGRATION OF COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING AND IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

College English is a basic compulsory course in colleges and universities in China which aims to cultivate students’ basic language knowledge and skills, understand the social and cultural knowledge of relevant English speaking countries, and improve their cross-cultural communication ability. In the traditional college English teaching, English teachers generally only pay attention to the teaching of the language and the cultivation of students’ comprehensive application ability of English, ignoring students’ ideological education. The period of four years at university is important for the formation, development and maturity of college students’ ideological and moral consciousness. In this period, a large number of western thoughts and cultures entered the campus through movies, media, networks, books, etc., which brought great impact on the moral screening and judgment of college students. With the integration of ideological education, relying on the correct guidance of English teachers, college
English can enable college students to treat western culture correctly, extract their essence and discard their dross and form correct values.

**INTEGRATION OF COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING AND IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

1) Flexible Use of Various Teaching Methods

College English course has the characteristics as plentiful class hours, long duration, rich content and wide coverage. Therefore, college English teaching is important for carrying out recessive ideological education for college students. In order to realize the effective integration of college English teaching and ideological education, various teaching methods can be used in English teaching. For example, in the teaching process of unit 5 of New Horizon College English reading and writing course (Second Edition), “Weeping for My Smoking Daughter”, for the topic of smoking, the teacher can refer to the example of Wang Yuan in TFBoys, which is hotly discussed by netizens, guide students to actively think whether smoking is an uncivilized behavior, and then guide students to discuss what uncivilized behaviors they have in their daily life, and further let students understand western modern literature through textbooks. In addition, teachers can also introduce case analysis, knowledge quizzes and other ways to create a good classroom atmosphere, or introduce flipped classroom, MOOCs and other modern teaching methods to effectively tap students’ learning potential and further realize the organic integration of English teaching and ideological education.

2) Improving College English Textbook and Curriculum

Textbook is an indispensable part of curriculum teaching. In order to promote the effective integration of college English teaching and ideological education, the college English textbooks and curriculum should be improved. The language materials used in college English textbooks can appropriately add contents about Chinese traditional culture, history, economy, etc., or introduce the great figures and heroes in ancient and contemporary China. In the after-class practice, the topic of comparison between Chinese and Western cultures can be set up for students to discuss and explore. In this way, it can not only enhance the cultural self-confidence of college students and help them get an effective understanding of the origin of their own national culture, but also scientifically clarify the relationship between their own national culture and other cultures, broaden their learning horizons and improve their critical thinking ability. In
order to improve the curriculum, the school can launch corresponding public English elective courses as a supplement for the compulsory college English courses, which can not only broaden students’ cultural vision, but also cultivate students’ patriotism. For example, schools can set up an elective course “Overview of Chinese Culture” to introduce Chinese traditional culture, cultural customs, geography and other contents to students in English, cultivate students’ ability to express Chinese culture in English, establish students’ sense of national pride, and improve their confidence and determination as successors and builders of socialism.

3) Opening up the “Second classroom” to Enhance the Effectiveness of Ideological Education

First, we can make full use of important English competitions to improve the effectiveness of ideological education. At present, we have a lot of national English competitions with great social influence, including National College English Contest, National English Speech Contest, FLTRP Cup National English Debate Contest, etc.

Colleges and universities should organize students to participate in those competitions actively. The organizers and universities can cooperate effectively to cultivate college students’ comprehensive application ability of English, improve their humanistic quality and help them establish correct values.

Second, we can organize school-level activities to improve the pertinence of ideological education. Colleges and universities should open up the “second classroom” of college English, integrate ideological education with college students’ interests and preferences, and improve the effectiveness of education. For example, we can organize English speech contest or English knowledge contest which is mainly composed of Xi Jinping’s important speeches and help students learn Xi’s important expositions on governing the country. This helps students set up confidence and determination to strive for the realization of the Chinese dream.

Third, we can improve the timeliness of ideological education relying on the new media platform. In China’s cultural context, there is a certain psychological distance between the elderly and the younger generation, teachers and students, etc., therefore, face to face communication often leads to estrangement and psychological pressure, which increases the difficulty of communication with students. Relying on the new media platform, students can put down their psychological defense line and speak freely. Of course, the application of new media also brings some new problems. We conducted a questionnaire survey on the application of new media in English learning. In this survey, 17 out of 95 people reported that they had encountered technical problems in the process of using new media for English learning. Six people made it
clear that their learning effect was affected by the technical problems they encountered, while 11 said that their learning effect was not greatly affected when there were technical problems. From the above data, we can see that the new technology is still welcomed by young people.

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Therefore, college English teachers should make full use of new media, such as setting up Wechat group and QQ group for students according to the actual situation, extend the “second classroom” to the new media platform, carry out teaching management, psychological counseling and humanistic care for students, and give necessary help to realize the comprehensive development of students’ various qualities.

CONCLUSION

In a word, college English is not only an important course to cultivate college students’ comprehensive application ability of English, but also a course to spread the core values of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Therefore, college English teaching staff must innovate their ideas and improve their understanding of ideological education and the significance and feasibility of integrating ideological education into college English teaching. Through the flexible use of a variety of teaching methods, improvement of college English textbooks and curriculum, and the opening up of the “second classroom” to enhance the effectiveness of ideological education, we can truly realize the organic integration of college English teaching and ideological education and expand the space of ideological education in colleges and universities so as to innovate the working methods of ideological education in colleges and universities.
REFERENCES
