

A Research on Cultivating Pattern for Inter-Disciplinary Talent of English Majors in University

UNE RECHERCHE SUR LE MODELE DE LA CULTURE POUR LES TALENTS INTER-DISCIPLINAIRES DES ETUDIANT UNIVERSITAIRE DE SPECIALITE D'ANGLAIS

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Abstract

First, the article analyses English majors' present situation, the crises they are facing and the changes in the demand of English specialty. English specialty should take the road of cultivating inter-disciplinary talent to cater for the needs of society. In addition, this article analyses the basis and specific scheme of cultivating inter-disciplinary talents in details.

Key words: English majors; Inter-disciplinary talent Cultivating; Pattern

Résumé

Tout d'abord, l'article analyse la situation des majors anglais présente, les crises auxquels ils sont confrontés et les changements dans la demande de la spécialité anglais. Spécialité anglais devrait prendre la route de cultiver inter-disciplinaire de talent pour répondre aux besoins de la société. En outre, cet article analyse la base et du régime spécifique de la culture inter-disciplinaires talents dans les détails.

Mots clés: Majeurrs en anglais; Talent de la culture d'inter-disciplinaire; modèle

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1. THE ACTUALITY OF ENGLISH MAJOR EDUCATION IN INSTITUTES OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Currently, higher education in our country is experiencing a transition from "elite education" to "mass education". The reform in our economic system subjectively brings about the shift in the requirement on the college students when the reform in the higher education system is the transfer of the undergraduate supplying mode. Before the two transfer joint hands with each other, the higher education popularization closely ensued, the conflict of which is directly manifested by the prominent issue of "employment difficulty" among the graduates. According to the research by the Ministry of Personnel, the year 2005 has seen 3.38 millions of graduates and the figure in 2006 was 4.13 millions, an increase of 0.75, or a growth rate of 22%. However, the demand for the graduates was approximately 1.66 millions, a decrease of 22%, which means 60% of the graduating students will face the vavacuumf posts. Under such a circumstance, the problems exposed in the education of the English major per se become more and more apparent. Colleges of Science and engineering fall into two categories, namely science and engineering. In terms of major setting, it mainly covers math, physics, chemistry and mechanics while the engineering-oriented institutes includes materials, mechanics, electric, electronics, civil engineering, project management, etc. Then, in order to bud and blossom in such universities, English, of necessity, possess its own features and advantages.

A. The Maladjustment of Concepts

The reform and opening provides a favourable opportunity for the development of foreign language majors. For years, due to superior sources of students and satisfactory employments and allocations, English major has long been held in popularity, which has contributed

to a lack of sense of crisis and sense of urgency in reforming the undergraduate foreign language courses among the leadership and teachers in the foreign language departments.

B. The Maladjustment of Talents-Training Mode

A recent survey has certified that the demand by state ministries and commissions, state enterprises, foreign trade companies, armies and educational departments for language-specific foreign languages has dropped to 0 while 66% of them expect the graduates in this major to possess a wide range of knowledge.

C. The Maladjustment of Curricula and Teaching Content

In terms of curricula and session schedules, foreign language majors prevalently take no account of relevant courses like the humanities and natural sciences and show a monotonous structure and obsolete content in the teaching content and textbooks due to their characteristic of mono-discipline. According to surveys, the employees, graduates and undergraduates choose the non-professional common compulsory courses and optional courses the as the least satisfactory subjects with mere satisfaction rates of 32.3% and 38.3% respectively.

Because of the problems within English teaching, English major becomes a “majorless” major, which makes the graduates hardly secure major-matching work, but engaging in some auxiliary service. Therefore, the significance of cultivation for the inter-disciplinary talents of English majors looms large. The proposal of this strategy aims to offer more professional courses to the “majorless” English major to enable graduates to offer better auxiliary services to all walks of life.

2. OTHER CONNOTATION OF INTER-DISCIPLINARY TALENT

Compound is the overlap, fusion and penetration between various disciplines. Correspondingly, inter-disciplinary talents feature the following intellectual characteristics. 1, a solid and wide range of knowledge. Familiarity with the basic theories and skills of two (or more) majors or disciplines are required so as to fulfill the preconditions for the integration of multi-disciplinary knowledge and to lay down a sound foundation for the cross-major study and cultivation of the capabilities. 2, blending of knowledge. Inter-disciplinary talents are in possession of multi-disciplinary knowledge, which, instead of being disconnected or detached from each other, intermingles and blends with each other and forms new knowledge and breeds new methods and comprehensive ability. Whether or not the academic knowledge could be integrated and applied to practice is a significant sign of inter-disciplinary talent.

Capacities that features the inter-disciplinary talent: 1, synthesis of capacities. A solid foundation and the blending of multidisciplinary knowledge facilitate the cultivation of capacity, which is not the mere multiply of the individual academic knowledge but complementary make-up of each other and acquisition of comprehensive ability on the basis of various capacities to effect its overall function in real practice. 2, innovation of capacities. Inter-disciplinary talent could achieve transcendence over the previous knowledge through the integration of cross-major knowledge and ability, i.e. capabilities of solving the encountered problems by applying a novel idea and proposing new solutions. This is an outburst of human creativity, a leap in the human intelligence.

3. MODES OF CULTIVATING INTER-DISCIPLINARY TALENT

Then, how can we cultivate the inter-disciplinary talent? It should be noticed that, in default of reform, the education in foreign language majors in our country shall be an impasse. The following is a brief mention upon the general ideas in the undergraduate educative reform in training the inter-disciplinary talent in the foreign language majors.

A. Shifts in Conceptions

Changes in the pedagogical ideas and concepts act as the avant-garde in the educative reform and the reform per se is unalterable. Conceptions that demands transformation falls into the following aspects (1) To counter the challenge posed by the 21st century to the foreign language majors and the challenge by this information age to the subject development, education in foreign language majors should adopt itself to the system of socialist economy. (2) The relationship of knowledge teaching, ability cultivation and quality enhancement should be handled properly and priority should be given to the improvement of students' overall quality. (3) Properly handle the relationship of teaching, scientific research and social service and put teaching into the key position of all works. (4) Proper handling of the relationship between teaching and learning is required. Students should be regarded as the main body of teaching activities and students' independent learning ability and the innovatory spirit should assume great significance. (5) Properly handle the relation between undergraduate education and lifelong education.

B. Construction of Ranks of Teachers with Compound Knowledge

It raises an even higher demand for the teachers to improve the teaching quality and train competent and practical talents of inter-disciplinary. Here are the very practices of University of Science and Technology of Anshan. (1) Introduce talents of English majors rich in both domestic and foreign business experience. (2) Designate English teachers with a business background

to receive further education at the specialized institutes. (3) Encourage teachers to participate in the business activities off campus. (4) Employ experienced specialists in the enterprises. (5) Invite major-related teachers to set up relevant curricula. Teachers should call upon their real practice while instructing and make a good combination of theory and practice.

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D. Strengthening Social Practice in Teaching

To a large extent, the curricula set for the English majors features practicality. For the students, some theories within are too unfathomable and dull. But if classroom instruction can be combined with real practices, the learning interests and effects among the students can be enhanced. Hereupon, we can resolve to the approach of combing the simulation within campus and field practice without. For instance, we can establish the Foreign Trade English Experiment Centre in the school. Teachers and students play different roles in the business and foreign trade activities. Students can get familiar with the foreign trade procedures through simulating business and foreign trade operations on the computer. Besides, fieldwork base can be jointly built along with the import-export department and foreign trade enterprise, wherein students can engage in the curricular practice and graduation field work. Meanwhile, classroom teaching and the pursuit of vocational qualifications should be combined together. Teachers should lay emphasis on the scope of certificate-dictated knowledge and properly guide the students to participate in the exams to obtain certificates. Strengthening the real practice in teaching could cultivate and improve students' problem-solving capacity, organizing and communicating capacity. At the same time, students can get to know their weak points, deficiency in the knowledge system timely and make the pertinent remedy.

E. Identifying the Talents' Characteristics and Market Positioning and Optimizing the Curricula System

Ever since the reform and opening up, the socialist market economy in our country is gradually established. The development of the global economic integration is under way and in particular, our nation joined the WTO and integrated into the great cycle of the world economy. In the wake of such a scenario, the demand for inter-disciplinary talent of English majors increased sharply. Correspondingly, schools must follow the dictate of the social requirements and narrow the span of post training after the employment of the graduates.

CONCLUSION

"The talents of English majors should boast such characteristics: solid basic skills, a wide range of knowledge, particular specialized knowledge, strong capabilities and superior qualities." This dictates that a reasonable degree on the cultivating patterns should be measured. Schools should build a reasonably-structured and well-performing curricula system, and optimize students' knowledge structure. Education serves the society and therefore, it must adopt to the economic development and meet the requirements of the labour market. It's imperative under the developing conditions to undergo educative reform and build a cultivating pattern for inter-disciplinary talent of English majors directed by the social requirements.

Fundamentally, English is a kind of skill and a sort of carrier. Only when it is tied with the carried can it form a major. All schools should be encouraged to blaze their own trail in cultivating inter-disciplinarian talents of English majors stamped with their own characteristics. They should establish their own talent-cultivation mode based on their specific circumstances in an independent and realistic manner and choose the compounding majors so as to cultivate high-qualified and distinctive inter-disciplinarian talents of English majors who could serve the local economic construction and social development. In this way, the graduates can receive welcome from the society and the schools distinguish themselves.

To put it into a final analysis, we should constantly intensify the reform in College English education, vigorously push forward the quality education, improve their overall quality and skills and enhance their capacity for employment. College English education must follow the real dictate of society and market to fit the rules of the linguistic economics. When cultivating students' integral quality, we should give

attention to the “utilitarianism” as well so as to cultivate a new type of talents featuring the perfect integration of society and market to make the English education not only enlarge their opportunity to secure a job, but also facilitate their career advancement.

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