

Research on the Ideological and Political Education in the Construction of College English Course

GAI Fangpeng^{[a],*}

^[a] Associate professor, School of Foreign Studies, Shandong Jiaotong University, China.

*Corresponding author.

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Abstract

Based on the analysis of the practical significance, the author of this paper puts forward the method and suggestions of the ideological and political education in the construction of college English course.

Key words: Ideological and political education; College English course; Suggestions

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1. INTRODUCTION

The main goal of higher education in China is to move from “teach” to “educate”, comprehensively improving the level of talent cultivation. As an important course in China’s national educational system, English plays a special role. Students need learn English for many years, mostly since the third grade of primary school (some even as early as kindergarten), then through middle school till college or even the graduate period. As a compulsory course for almost all the important entrance examinations, which has a profound impact on students’ academic performance, English has been attached great importance by students, parents and schools. Therefore, for a long time, schools have only focused on students’ English learning, instead of paying enough attention

to how to do a good job in “educating students” in this course. In fact, English course is not only about language learning, besides the western culture, English course should also have the function of guiding students to understand our core values, political thoughts, moral integrity, and to establish their national and cultural self-confidence. In the new era, integrating ideological and political education into college English teaching can not only endow the traditional ideological and political education with fresh vitality, but also enrich the connotation of college English course itself, achieving both the knowledge teaching and value guidance.

In recent years, many scholars and teachers have done a lot of research on ideological and political education in college English teaching. Some of them have been exploring the connotation of ideological and political education of the college English course (Liu & Hu, 2021; Wen, 2021; Cai, 2021). Some have studied the teaching methods in the implementation of course ideology and politics (Meng, 2020; Liu, Yue, 2020; Yang, 2020; Xia, 2020).

There is no equivalent concept of ideological and political education in foreign countries. Some of them mainly provide students with civil education and moral education. In Britain, moral education is required to be included in school course. Japan specially offers course such as civic and moral course to cultivate students’ political, legal and moral awareness. They have infiltrated ideological and political education into every aspect of students’ lives. Their methods are enlightenment for us.

2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN COLLEGE ENGLISH COURSE

2.1 Cultivate Students’ Humanistic Quality and Realize the All-Round Development

The traditional college English teaching lays particular emphasis on the function of English as a tool and ignores

the cultivation of students' humanistic quality, which can easily lead to the loss of subject consciousness of the trained talents. While emphasizing the "instrumentality" of the college English course, we also should attach great importance to its "humanity", and insist that the ideological and political guiding should be integrated into the college English course, because it can enhance students' feelings to home country, improve their innovation, entrepreneurship and humanistic quality, and realize the ideological and moral cultivation, helping to promote the all-round development of students.

2.2 Lead Students to Disseminate Historical Culture and Build a Cultural Power

The history of human thought development is a magnificent historical picture. The Chinese nation, as one of the oldest nations, has created splendid culture and it should become an essential part of this historical picture. One of the important missions of college English course is to cultivate students' ability to understand and interpret Chinese culture and strive for the external dissemination of Chinese culture so that people of all over the world can know and understand the splendid part of the world history. Through the ideological and political education of college English course, we will cultivate students' cultural self-confidence and cultural consciousness, steadily improve their understanding, interpretation and dissemination of Chinese culture, and promote the construction of Chinese cultural soft power.

2.3 Help Students' to Experience Various Cultures, Broaden International Horizons and Cultivate Critical Thinking Ability

College students are the builders of our nation's future. They should not only have moral integrity and ability, but also the international perspective, so that they can better adapt to the development in the era of globalization. With the deepening of reform and opening up and the strengthening of globalization, the western lifestyle has been widely introduced into China and the college students who have great convenience to contact western culture are more and more open-minded. They are quick to respond to new ideas, willing to try and accept new things, but also inexperienced and lack of rational judgment, inclined to go to extremes, which will easily lead to the loss of themselves.

College English course is a basic and compulsory course, which involves a wide range of foreign cultures, helps college students learn more comprehensively and accurately about foreign cultures and ideas while acquiring English knowledge. With teachers' correct guidance to compare and contrast different cultures, college English course can also help students to understand the world more critically and establish a healthy world view by educating students imperceptibly, disseminating mainstream social values, and strengthening the education of students' ideals and beliefs, patriotism and so on.

3. THE METHOD OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN COLLEGE ENGLISH COURSE

The ideological and political education of college English course is a systematic project, involving a host of links. It should make good use of classroom teaching, and only when all links go in the same direction to form a synergy effect, can we implement the ideological and political education into the whole process of education, and achieve all-round education.

In our daily education, we combine explicit education with implicit education, make full use of various kinds of ideological and political resources, and explore the optimal function of college English course teaching. Explicit education refers to the use of conventional and externalized teaching methods, such as classroom teaching, lectures, seminars and some other ways to explain some theories and original principles. It is a traditional education method. Implicit education focuses on fully mobilizing the subjective initiative of students when carrying out educational activities, combining the elements of educator, educational content and educational purpose in the whole process of education through an open educational approach, so that the educated can acquire learning experience in a pleasant atmosphere, and internalize the learning content and objectives of the education. "Successful ideological and political education pays more and more attention to the methods of penetration and implication, so that educators can effectively educate students imperceptibly and imperceptibly" (Zhang, 2001). The method of implicit penetration can achieve the desired result with half effort. Implicit education makes college students actively accept the content of education, and it is easier to help college students shape healthy values.

3.1 Classroom Teaching as Explicit Education Method

Explicit theoretical teaching is the leading way of ideological and political education for college students. The process of classroom teaching is educating people in an explicit way. In classroom teaching, teachers achieve the goal of educating people through knowledge teaching and value guidance (Gao & Zong, 2017). In the process of classroom learning, we use multimedia method to attract students' attention to promote their initiative and participation in learning, carrying out explicit education. The visual and auditory advantages of multimedia are taken to strengthen the effect. When introducing foreign cultures, the Chinese counterpart reflecting China's history, culture, scientific and technological achievements, is also mentioned, so that students can be infiltrated and edified by our ancient advanced ideas and excellent culture.

In our teaching practice, before class, the teachers' teaching plan will correlate English knowledge and ideological and political education content according to the teaching requirements of the specific unit. At this stage, teachers will fully consider the theme and the text of the unit, make full use of the rich online materials, such as film and television programs, news stories and other resources to design the teaching objectives and ideological and political education objectives, and then inform the students of the objectives so that they can preview accordingly. In class, after discussing the main idea of the text, the ideological and political sublimation of the unit theme are carried out. For example, in the unit related to a western festival, teachers arrange the activities of cultural comparison between Chinese and the Western festivals. Firstly, students volunteer to share the western festival customs and the historical origin they know, which is followed by further comparing and contrasting the corresponding festival in China, and carrying out cultural difference education. This can not only help students understand western culture, but also help students understand Chinese culture more deeply and improve their cultural confidence. After class, in order to help students output what they learn to deepen their learning, teachers usually ask students to reflect on what they have acquired in class and combine with their further thinking to form a writing assignment, and the assignment needs to be shared on the learning platform. This will not only improve their cultural confidence, but also will strengthen their ability of language output.

3.2 Extracurricular Practice as Implicit Supplement

In the new era, the cultivation of college students' healthy values and mentality needs the combination of the theoretical education with practice. While focusing on the classroom education, teachers should not neglect the construction of practical activities outside of the classroom, which is a way of implicit education. In our practice, the teachers arrange colorful extracurricular activities to enhance the students' ideological and political awareness. On the one hand, the teachers use English Corner to carry out various activities to convey healthy values, enabling students to gain knowledge and spiritual development through diversified practical carriers. English debates are held and ideological and political content is integrated into it to mobilize students' enthusiasm to participate. The college students' practical ability, thinking ability and various abilities have been significantly improved, their humanistic qualities have been better cultivated, and the ideological and political concept has been constructed in the students' minds. Through the activities, students can not only fully grasp knowledge, but also learn to use language through practical training to gain more knowledge (Zhang, et al, 2022).

In addition, the teachers also use online communication platforms such as various websites, online communities, blog, WeChat, QQ, as well as the digital platform of college English to provide corresponding knowledge, so that students can grasp English knowledge and learning skills. Some current events are selected for students so that they can contrast Chinese and foreign cultures to promote their national literacy. Through online learning, students can better communicate with each other, and teachers can provide students with more learning resources, answer questions, strengthen communication with students, and improve the effect of ideological and political education.

At the same time, due to the characteristics of the rapid transmission of massive information in the era of the media, the teachers grasp the dominant power of media communication in a timely manner, encourage the students to use short videos, cartoons, micro-classes and other intuitive, interactive and rich forms of new media to make some special online programs, advocating the establishment of a healthy concept, integrate the connotation of healthy mentality cultivation into as many mass media as possible, and conduct ideological and political education in the new era.

With the development of the times, students' personalities are different from their former generations. Therefore, when practicing ideological and political education in college English course, the teachers comply with the trend of the times and enrich classroom teaching methods, creating an education environment according to various factors, such as the objectives of education and the educational environment, so as to successfully mobilize students' interest in learning and effectively improve the educational effect of college English classroom. It is an important link in the ideological education to explore the new method of effective combination of explicit theoretical education and implicit practical education in the new era.

4. SUGGESTIONS ON IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN COLLEGE ENGLISH COURSE

According to the teaching practice, we try to put forward some suggestions:

4.1 Clarify the Ideological and Political Teaching Objectives

As the guidance of teaching, teaching objectives are a clear statement of what changes teaching will cause, and also the result of students' learning that is expected by teaching activities. The humanistic nature of college English course makes it necessary for teachers to analyze the unit theme and content from multiple perspectives, determine the knowledge objectives and ideological and

political objectives, and provide guidance for teachers to carry out teaching.

In this process, teachers should note that classroom teaching is an interactive process of two-way communication, and classroom activities should be jointly created by teachers and students. In the classroom, there should be multi-dimensional interaction between teachers and students and among students, which can help to transform the static classroom into a dynamic classroom. College English teachers are required to reposition their roles. Under the interactive teaching mode, teachers are not only the planners, organizers and participants of classroom teaching activities, but also the managers of the teaching process, the creators of the ideological and political education, and the excavators of students' potential power. At the same time, students are the center of the class, so teachers should focus on students and support students' subjective initiative to participate in ideological and political learning.

4.2 Store Ideological and Political Materials to Share Teaching Experience

It would be better to classify and archive the ideological and political materials and good-designed teaching cases that have been excavated and tested in teaching practice, build the ideological and political material house and provide applicable and effective multimodal resources for university teachers to carry out the ideological and political education. At the same time, in the practical teaching, although the topic is determined by the textbook and teachers, in the process of thinking and sharing, students also contribute a lot of topics that are more attractive to their peers. These are valuable content and experiences. Teachers should summarize and save them in time, constantly update their teaching design, share practical teaching experience, and effectively guide and improve the ideological and political education of college English course.

4.3 Pay Attention to the Choice of Teaching Content and Strengthen the Value Orientation

Due to the influence of examination-oriented education, college English teaching generally still focuses on the knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and the like, which will improve students' abilities in listening, speaking, reading, writing, translating, but ignoring the training of students' critical thinking ability. Due to the lack of rational judgment abilities, it is essential for teachers to guide students to objectively analyze cultural values in class, which requires teachers to properly select the content of classroom teaching, and integrate the relevant elements of the ideological and political education into the teaching process, so as to constantly enrich the teaching content.

4.4. Enrich Teaching Methods to Improve the Outcomes of the Ideological and Political Education

With the development of the times, when carrying out

the ideological and political education in college English course, teachers must comply with the trend of the times, enrich classroom teaching methods and create an environment for carrying out the ideological and political education according to various factors, such as the objects of education and the educational environment, so as to successfully mobilize students' interest in learning and improve the educational effect of college English classroom.

In college English teaching, teachers should organically integrate explicit education and implicit education, fully mobilize students' learning interest and enthusiasm, and maximize the educational effect. In the classroom, English teachers should optimize the teaching content, integrate the excellent traditional Chinese culture, classical poetry and other important contents, and show them to students in bilingual form. By comparing the similarities and differences between Chinese and Western cultures, students can highlight the long history of traditional Chinese culture, deepen their understanding of our national culture and their love for traditional Chinese culture. Integrating Chinese culture into English teaching is conducive to the promotion of traditional culture and the cultivation of students' thinking ability.

Extracurricular activities can be held in various forms, such as debate contests, speeches and other activities, which can not only create a good learning atmosphere, stimulate students' interest in learning, but also subtly let students learn more about China's excellent traditional culture and history, strengthen students' patriotism, and enhance students' cultural self-confidence and national pride.

5. CONCLUSION

English teachers should deeply realize that English teaching is not only to teach students language knowledge and improve the ability to listen, speak, read and write, but also to promote students' all-round development. Teachers also should realize that they are not only English teachers, but also moral teachers. Educators should be encouraged to evoke the students' subject consciousness in the process of education, so as to awaken students to understand the meaning of life.

Chinese traditional culture contains rich moral educational resources, which are valuable assets to the young Chinese college students. With the deepening of globalization and the rapid development of the Internet, mankind has entered an era of cultural diversity. In this context, the mission of spreading our excellent traditional culture and guiding students to establish healthy value orientation has been an essential task for all the college English teachers in China.

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