

## English and American Literature Teaching in Colleges and Universities in the New Media Age

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### Abstract

In the new media age, English and American literature teaching in colleges and universities need adjust to the change, which can get rid of the teaching dilemmas. In order to construct the teaching effects and optimize the teaching modes, it is necessary to use diverse methods to improve English and American literature teaching in the age.

**Key words:** English and American literature teaching; New media age; Modes

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The Internet Era is changing the reading habits of this generation, and more and more people are willing to use the Internet platform. Paper media is no longer the only way for people to acquire knowledge and information. Through the network, people can obtain a lot of information, to a certain extent, which can fill the shortage of paper books. It can also affect people's attention to literary classics. As people change their way of reading, more people use the Internet to focus on short videos or texts about the literary classics. This brings the opportunities and challenges to the English and American literature teaching in colleges and universities.

### 1. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW MEDIA AGE

People can better communicate and carry out all kinds of activities through the network, and they can also

read the classics of the world. In the past, there was no other ways to obtain knowledge and information. It was only available through newspapers, magazines, literary classics and so on. In the absence of other forms of entertainment, people used to reading newspapers as the main means of recreation and cultivation of sentiment. Nowadays, all kinds of information channels and entertainment ways are changing people's ways of life and reading. For example, television and the Internet exist on a large scale, and people have more choices. In the face of diverse ways of information, reading is no longer the only option. Browsing novels on the Internet has gradually become a common phenomenon among young readers, which has led to the popularity of literary websites and online novels at one time. Although online literature is fast, convenient and free sometimes, network novels are not conducive to the cultivation of good reading habits and reading ability because of their uneven quality and plain content. This kind of shallow reading will reduce the attention to the literary classics, which is not conducive to the dissemination of Chinese literary classics and the dissemination of contemporary western novels in China. The network management is not perfect and does not set the threshold for the novel publishers' seniority, whether the novel's intention is positive or the background knowledge is accurate, but they can also obtain the publication. Even some novels only focus on entertainment, deviate from history, distort facts, and have a negative impact on teenagers. Over time, teenagers misunderstand the classic literature, which is not beneficial to the growth of teenagers and the dissemination of classic works. Because of the heavy homework and the great pressure of study, students like to read concise words, pictures and videos, which limit their reading of classical literature and are not conducive to their participation in literary classics. In addition, mobile phones, as the carrier of personal information terminals, can read all kinds of electronic text online or offline.

The development of mobile reading software provides technical support for the promotion of mobile reading, in the reading software can read news, newspapers, magazines, novels, e-books, literature and so on. Reading by mobile phones is readable anytime, anywhere, which is especially important for people in the city, if they can use the time of waiting or waiting for a car to read for ten minutes every day, they can add a lot of knowledge at the end of the year; second, they can easily download a variety of books, and the storage is huge, especially the classic works. Any website can download, which can also save time and effort compared with the purchase of paper books; third, the communication between friends is very convenient, with Bluetooth transmission, instantly can pass a book, and does not affect the original reading. Despite this convenience, mobile reading isn't easy to turn a page, especially for researchers. Some people are still unaccustomed to this way of reading, psychologically difficult to accept, and people use their mobile phones more to watch videos than to read longer text. With the development of 4G technology and the powerful reading function, the reading under the condition of mobile phones is more broken, which is good to deep reading, and it is difficult for people to appreciate the true connotation of the work to be expressed. For technical and intellectual property reasons, many books cannot be published online, which also limits the dissemination of literary classics to some extent.

## **2. THE PRESENT SITUATION OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE TEACHING IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CHINA**

In the traditional class, teaching ideas are teacher-centered, which is based on books, teachers and teaching plans and puts more emphasis on theories, not practice. Traditional teaching is mainly characterized by the active teaching of teachers and the passive reaction of students. The teaching aims focus on knowledge and center less on ability and teachers often pay attention to the teaching of knowledge through the narration of language and the indoctrination of behavior. In the process of teaching, the dominant position of teachers is prominent, while the main position of students is habitually neglected. As for the teaching evaluation, the criteria of traditional teaching are simple. Especially for the English and American Literature teaching, teachers often introduce the content or some details of classic works, which cannot motivate the interest of the students.

The English and American literature teaching is also a comprehensive teaching. Teaching which relies on books sometimes isn't a suitable way of teaching. As we all know, teaching needs to be creative and innovative. If teachers can make good use of teaching method and

media, the teaching can be enriched and optimized. Therefore, traditional way cannot adapt to the modern need of teaching.

## **3. THE NEED OF COMBINATION OF NEW MEDIA AND ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE TEACHING**

The combination of New Media and English and American Literature Teaching is based on the same education concept, which embodies the subjectivity of students. The teaching activities involving new media include micro-classes, Moocs, some autonomous learning platforms and so on, which make the teaching activity get rid of the limitation of single teaching mode and teacher-centered mode. Some other ways, such as blogs, wechat, QQ, can make teachers and students communicate more smoothly and make their relationship closer. This kind of communication shows the students' desire of subjective communication, and pays attention to the students' feeling and existence value. With the development of modern science and technology, computers have entered the field of education in our country, and have been developed rapidly. Universities have multimedia teaching in teaching classes, which greatly improves the quality of teaching. The application of multimedia in education has brought about changes in teaching methods, teaching materials concept and form, classroom teaching structure and even teaching ideas and teaching theories. Multimedia have changed the single and rigid expression form of chalk and blackboard in traditional teaching, which can visualize and visualize abstract and unfamiliar knowledge, stimulate students' interest in learning and arouse their enthusiasm for active learning.

## **4. TEACHING DESIGN OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE IN THE NEW MEDIA AGE**

The educational paradigm is moving towards a model that includes online learning, mixed learning and collaborative learning. Students now spend a lot of time on the Internet learning and in exchanging information with their classmates and friends. The online learning environment has many advantages which are not as good as the traditional classroom. For example, when students have stronger digital learning skills, there will be more opportunities to participate in collaborative learning more widely. This requires universities to try to adopt a mixed learning model of face-to-face and network, so it is necessary to strengthen the network communication skills formed by learners outside of knowledge learning. Social media is increasingly changing the way people communicate, express opinions and information, and

communicate with each other. Educators, students and even the general public usually use social media to share the latest events, ideas and information and materials of interest. Meanwhile, scientists and researchers are using social media to deliver their latest results to society. This shows that social media has become an effective platform for information resources to attract people's concerns. What impact these changes will bring to school teaching remains to be judged, but the widespread use of social media throughout the education community is an indisputable fact. For example, in the west, teachers often use information platforms such as Facebook when communicating with students, and the country's well-traveled Renren, Sina, Micro Blog and QQ groups have become indispensable tools for different groups of teachers and students to share information and communicate emotions. Openness – concepts such as open content, open data, open resources, and transparency and accessibility of data and information – is becoming a new value. The term “openness” is often used in a variety of educational situations, but is often mistaken for “free”. Advocates of open education are working towards a shared vision that “openness” is not limited to “free” economically, but also has the characteristics of free replication, reorganization and accessibility, sharing and application of educational resources.

With lower technology costs and a more open school policy in primary school districts, it is becoming more common for students to go to school with their mobile devices. More and more schools are adapting to the trend, launching their own equipment projects to encourage students to use their own equipment in class. This will ease the school's budget difficulties, reduce investment in information technology, and save money to buy equipment for students in need. More and more universities are recognizing that teachers have a more positive understanding of the teaching functions of smartphones and other devices, thus adopting a supportive and encouraging attitude towards teachers trying to improve teaching by information technology. The development trend of students obtaining massive information resources and extensive interpersonal communication opportunities through the Internet urges us to rethink the role of educators themselves. In such a world, the ability of access to valuable information and extract meaningful information from it is crucial. Therefore, guiding and cultivating students' social survival and working ability under the background of information become the first priority of the school. Basic education has long been seen as a key way to obtain academic qualifications, but information resources from the web will force schools to redefine the path to qualifications.

#### **4.1 Building A Relationship of Equal Assistance Between Teachers and Students**

Teacher-student relationship is an important aspect to

reflect the situation of teachers' classroom management and class management, and it is also the key to influence the effect of education and teaching. The equal teacher-student relationship can make teachers and students live in harmony and communicate effectively, help to reduce and prevent the occurrence of problem, help to create a learning environment that makes students feel happy and happy, and create conditions for students' sustainable development. The equality of teacher-student relationship refers to the equality of teachers and students in personality and in the process of education and teaching. A good teacher-student relationship is the basis of good education and teaching, and is also one of the important conditions for the implementation of quality education. Whether the teacher can be competent for the work of education and teaching, whether the students can develop comprehensively and actively, and finally complete the learning task, largely depends on whether the relationship between teachers and students is good or not. Modern educational thought tells us that if the relationship between teachers and students is healthy, students will be willing to receive education, and it is possible to cultivate high-quality talents who meet the needs of social development. The teacher-student relationship is the key to influence the effect of education and teaching. The scientific view of students, teachers and scientific development requires teachers to establish a harmonious and equal teacher-student relationship. In the classroom, the teacher's role should be changed from “master” to “guide” to guide students to learn independently, cooperate, explore and innovate. The teacher should treat himself as an audience, as a discussant and a collaborator. However, it is very difficult for teachers and students to achieve true equality in personality and teaching, because it is difficult for traditional educational ideas to be removed from their own minds at once. Therefore, it is necessary for every teacher to start with the analysis of the disadvantages of the traditional teacher-student relationship to change their own education and teaching concept, to further clarify the importance and connotation of the equal teacher-student relationship and how to establish the equal teacher-student relationship, so as to lay a solid foundation for the establishment of a truly equal teacher-student relationship.

#### **4.2 Teaching Contents Need Make Full Use of New Media Resources**

The new media, represented by the Internet and mobile media, has opened up a new platform for information transmission and spawned a new carrier for storing a lot of resources. Making full use of the new media resources in English and American Literature Teaching cannot only enrich the teaching contents, innovate the teaching forms, enliven the teaching atmosphere and coordinate the teacher-student relationship, but also fully arouse the students' enthusiasm in learning and enhance the effectiveness of teaching.

English and American Literature teaching has its own characteristics. And this course is based on a lot of classic works. Sometimes, paper books cannot satisfy the need of teaching and learning because of the limited editions. If students want to find the original edition and English edition, new media resources are the good choice. It is also a good choice to teach this course through new media. On the other hand, teachers also need such kind of new way to optimize the teaching and let students interested and put more passion to learning. And more and more teachers like to use MOOC and Micro-classes to teach. A lot of universities have created websites about this course, which include excellent courses, teaching PPTs, movie videos, after-class homework, assessment and so on. This can strengthen the interaction between teachers and students. In the process, students is in the active position, which benefit the ability of their innovation and cooperation.

### 4.3 Teaching Methods Can Be Diversified

Flipped Classroom, or Inverted Classroom, refers to re-adjusting the time within and outside the classroom to shift the decision-making power of learning from the teacher to the student. In this mode of teaching, students are able to focus more on proactive project-based learning, work together to address the challenges of localization or globalization, and other real-world problems to gain a deeper understanding. Teachers no longer take up classroom time to teach information, which requires students to complete their own learning before class, they can watch video lectures, listen to podcasts, read more functional e-books, can also discuss with other students on the Internet, and can consult the required materials at any time. Teachers can also have more time to communicate with everyone. After class, students autonomously plan learning content, learning rhythm, style and ways of presenting knowledge, while teachers use teaching and collaboration methods to meet students' needs and promote their individualized learning, the goal

of which is to enable students to gain more real learning through practice.

The flipped classroom model is part of the big education movement, which overlaps with mixed learning, inquiry learning, other teaching methods and tools in meaning, all in order to make learning more flexible and active, and to make students more participatory. In the Internet age, students learn rich online courses through the Internet, do not have to go to school to receive teachers to teach. The Internet, especially the mobile Internet, has spawned a "flipped classroom" teaching model. "Flipped classroom style" is a complete subversion of the traditional classroom teaching structure and teaching process based on printing, which will lead to a series of changes such as teacher role, curriculum mode, management mode and so on. And the English and American literature class should let students understand the teaching contents fully and digest the works. It is necessary to assign some tasks for students and organize students to show their tasks, which can enrich class and cultivate their speculative ability.

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