

Research on the Cultivation Strategies of Critical Thinking Ability in College English Reading Teaching

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Abstract: English reading is a comprehensive and practical subject, which is of great help to students' understanding and use of English. In college English classrooms, teachers should pay attention to improving students' logical thinking level, so that students can learn to analyze and judge English teaching materials with rational thinking, so as to improve their overall literacy and promote the development of their comprehensive quality. Based on this, this paper analyzes the concept and connotation of critical thinking ability, studies the importance and feasibility of critical thinking ability cultivation in college English reading teaching, and proposes strategies for cultivating critical thinking ability in college English reading teaching.

Keywords: College English; Instruction in reading; Critical thinking; Nurturing strategies

1. Introduction

In today's society where the speed of information dissemination is fast, knowledge is updated quickly, and human society has entered the era of information explosion, people are more and more dependent on short messages. Long-term exposure to fragmented information knowledge will make people unable to calm down and think. People who lack critical thinking ability are difficult to cope with the complex and changeable social environment. Therefore, cultivating the critical thinking ability of college students has become an urgent requirement for the reform and development of higher education in China. The relevant curriculum proposes to "cultivate students' ability to acquire, understand, analyze, evaluate and apply cultural knowledge in English", that is, students are required to have a certain degree of critical thinking ability.

2. Analysis of the value of students' critical thinking ability in college English reading teaching

2.1 The development of students' comprehensive ability is to be promoted

In the teaching of college English reading, teachers should continue to cultivate students' critical thinking, so that students can learn to think and analyze problems, and be able to find solutions to problems through reading. In the teaching of reading, teachers should guide students to learn to think and analyze in English, and to use English as a language tool to look at problems. For example, in the process of teaching reading, teachers can encourage students to conduct research on English knowledge through reading teaching, so that students can understand how the author handles it. In addition, students should be guided to understand cultural differences and the cultural background of the text, and to express their thoughts and opinions in English, so as to expand their comprehensive English ability ^[1].

2.2 The relationship between the cultivation of critical thinking ability and the teaching of English reading in college

Critical thinking ability refers to an individual's ability to compare, analyze, synthesize, and reason, and it includes analysis, evaluation, judgment, and some other aspects. Critical thinking is a kind of judgment ability, which can give individuals the ability to evaluate and distinguish. Critical thinking ability is an advanced stage of thinking, which is a mode of thinking that judges, analyzes, compares, synthesizes and reasons about things or problems formed through rational thinking on the basis of observing things and phenomena. However, at present, there are problems in English education in China, such as students' rigid thinking and unfluent

language expression, which play a great role in hindering the cultivation of students' critical thinking ability. Therefore, in the teaching of college English reading, teachers should pay attention to the cultivation of students' critical thinking ability, and continuously enhance students' critical thinking awareness and critical thinking ability by adopting correct methods and strategies. Thus students can better understand and master English knowledge through reading learning, and their interest in learning and learning efficiency are both improved.

3. Strategies for cultivating critical thinking ability in college English teaching

3.1 Diversified channels for learning is to be expanded guided by the laws of critical thinking ability

In order to better cultivate students' critical thinking ability, teachers can enrich teaching content, create a good classroom atmosphere, improve students' interest in reading, and develop the habit of independent reading. In the teaching of English reading in college, teachers should continue to combine students' learning habits to expand diversified learning channels, so that students can learn to read and analyze from multiple perspectives, so as to master English knowledge in reading and conduct in-depth research on reading content. For example, when teaching reading in related courses, teachers can set the texts into two modes, like situational dialogue and role-playing, according to the course content and students' situation, so that students can understand the content of the text deeply^[2]. In addition, teachers can also conduct group discussion activities, in which students can gain an in-depth understanding of the content of the text and analyze and think about problems during the discussion, thereby improving their critical thinking skills.

3.2 The training of students' consolidation of English knowledge is to be strengthened

In the teaching of college English reading, the consolidation of students' knowledge is an important way to improve their critical thinking ability, and teachers should pay attention to students' mastery and consolidation of knowledge, so that students can learn to think independently. First of all, teachers should guide students to read more English newspapers, magazines, English books, or watch English movies, so that students can obtain certain language knowledge from external sources. Secondly, teachers can ask students to do some English reading comprehension, such as cloze and reading comprehension. Thirdly, teachers can ask students to summarize and sort out what they have learned, and write a short article or story to improve their ability to apply knowledge. Through the efforts in the above aspects, students can learn to think and analyze problems in English reading. However, in this process, teachers should innovate teaching methods based on the characteristics of students, so as to improve students' English proficiency and promote the development of their critical thinking ability.

3.3 Self-directed learning habits and good reading habits are to be strengthened

English reading teaching is a comprehensive and difficult teaching activity, which has always been a difficult teaching activity for students and teachers. Therefore, teachers should combine the development background of the times and students' interests, and use big data to reasonably arrange reading dialogue activities in the classroom, so as to enhance their interest in reading and cultivate their good reading habits. For example, interspersed with pictures, videos and other information in the reading, students can appreciate the content of the article from different angles. In addition, teachers should guide students to develop good learning habits, such as not only focusing on one word in reading, but also paying attention to the other vocabulary and grammar in the text. In addition, teachers should guide students to learn to read actively, and enhance students' self-directed learning ability through activities such as quizzes and group discussions, so that students can develop good learning habits and improve reading comprehension skills^[3].

3.4 Standards are to be clarified and teaching evaluation methods are to be optimized

The evaluation of college English reading teaching is a very complex issue, involving a variety of evaluation subjects and evaluation criteria, including not only test scores, but also reading process, classroom performance, teaching effectiveness, etc. Therefore, in order to improve students' comprehensive ability, teachers should let students evaluate their learning from various aspects in college English reading teaching, and encourage students to continue to develop. Teachers can evaluate students' performance and give affirmation and encouragement accordingly. This assessment can make a positive impact on students' learning and help them build confidence. Teachers can also set a learning goal for each student and develop different learning plans according to each person's actual situation. Students can get a great sense of satisfaction if they achieve the goals they have set for themselves. In order to achieve them, they work harder to learn, gaining experience and confidence in the process of success. This kind of evaluation can stimulate students' enthusiasm and initiative in learning English. Therefore, teachers should clarify the goal of critical thinking ability cultivation in college English reading teaching, and continuously optimize teaching evaluation methods,

so that students can learn to think and analyze problems in reading. When carrying out reading teaching activities, teachers should guide students to understand the content and theme of the article through their own observation and analysis, and master the content of the article through their own analysis and judgment, so as to fully grasp the teaching content of the course, so as to improve students' critical thinking ability.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, with the advancement of the new curriculum reform, it is of great practical significance to cultivate students' critical thinking ability in college English reading teaching. Based on the teaching practice, the above strategies are put forward to cultivate students' critical thinking ability by combining the curriculum, students' critical thinking training, cooperative diversified learning, self-directed learning cultivating and task-based activity teaching mode, aiming to improve students' ability to analyze and judge information, develop students' critical thinking and creative thinking, and stimulate students' interest in learning and independent learning ability. In addition, teachers should actively encourage students to carry out English reading practice activities, and to clarify the teaching evaluation criteria in their practice, so that students have a clear understanding of themselves, and continuously improve their own critical thinking awareness in practice.

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