

The Importance and Methods of Constructing Quality Courses for English Majors in Universities

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Fund Project: 20WYJDY05, 2020 Mongolian cultural heritage and foreign language education innovation research base project of Inner Mongolia Minzu University: The importance of building a “golden course” based on curriculum construction for English Majors in Colleges and universities for Nationalities.

Abstract : At present, with the rapid development of China’s politics and economy, more high-end English majors are needed for our country’s construction. Universities are responsible for developing the talents needed. So in universities, constructing quality courses are necessary for the education of excellent English majors. Excellent courses will do much good to improve students’ language abilities and other necessary skills.

Keywords : Quality Courses; English Majors; Universities

Nowadays, with the rapid development of China’s politics and economy, more high-end English majors are needed in many fields of our country for the further development. Excellent English majors are needed in the field of politics, economy, education, etc. The teaching of English Majors in universities should meet this requirement. From curriculum setting, curriculum building to curriculum teaching, every detail should be considered in order to develop excellent English majors.

1. The importance of constructing quality courses for English majors

English majors are needed in many fields of our country and with the rapid development of our country’s politics and economy, more and more excellent English majors are needed for the construction of our country.

Firstly, quality courses are the basis for the necessary requirement of English majors, for example, students’ listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities. These four skills are the basic skills in English learning, but for many years the teaching of these relevant courses are not that satisfying. In traditional language classrooms, teachers usually explain the main points in the textbooks, and students remember the points.

Secondly, there are many other relevant courses, for example, literature, linguistics, culture, translation, etc. These courses are important for students’ further study. If teachers use the traditional methods in their teaching, it is hard for them to arouse students’ interest. Literature is a course that students’ literary quality is cultivated. If teachers only present the information from the textbooks, students will not be interested in the course and they prefer to read the literary works by themselves. Linguistics classes usually are regarded as a hard one for students. They cannot understand and remember the terms or ideas presented in the textbooks. If teachers only read or explain the ideas in the textbooks, students will lose interest of the class. For some culture and translation classes, things are the same. The materials and methods of the courses needs changing for a better development of cultivating students’ various abilities.

Thirdly, language classes should be combined with the ideological and political construction. Language teachers are responsible for helping students form a correct outlook on life and the world. In every course, teachers should introduce the basic skills needed

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and at the same time, let students know that they have the responsibility to introduce Chinese culture and customs to the other countries. So teachers should create a new combination of materials and methods to give students a new outlook. Nowadays, our country is developing fast, and many other countries want to learn from us and communicate with us. For an English major, it is necessary for them to grasp the foreign culture and our Chinese culture well and in communication with other countries, they have the responsibility to tell others our excellent tradition and culture.

Fourthly, students' motivation and interest are quite important for language learning. If teachers do not change their way and materials of teaching, students will easily lose their interest and have no motivation to learn. Motivation and interest are key affective variables in language learning process. If students are interested in the courses, they will pay more attention to the content, but if they think the classes are boring and have nothing new, they will soon lose interest. If students have no interest in what they are learning, they will definitely have no motivation to learn and this is quite dangerous. Active learning and passive learning will bring very different results.

2. The methods of constructing quality courses for English majors

There are several methods for university teachers to construct quality courses for English majors. University teachers should give full play to their professional expertise. Proper methods for constructing quality courses can arouse students' interest and motivation to learn language better. The methods are creative and the quality courses should be beneficial to English majors.

Firstly, refine teaching content of the courses. Just as mentioned above, many course contents can be found on the internet or some other sources. So there is no need for teachers to teach the content from the beginning to the end without any focus. Such classes cannot arouse students' interest to learn and some students may think that it is a waste of time. In this case, students have no motivation to learn and the language classroom is not attractive to them. Teachers should refine their teaching content, summarize the key points of the content in the course, in this way both teachers and students can focus on the key elements of language knowledge. When they have finished the key contents, they can have time to discuss the problems they meet and have a further understanding of the knowledge. Both teachers and students can save time to learn more knowledge. And with the development of the whole society, the requirement for knowledge presentation is different from that before. Word by word explanation cannot be accepted. Knowledge in the books should be refined by teachers and teachers extract those that are key points before class in order to make their lessons meaningful and attractive.

Secondly, enrich teaching methods. In constructing quality courses, teaching methods are the necessary elements to be noticed. Teaching methods should keep up with the pace of the whole world. Now there are many new language teaching approaches and methods. Combined with the ideas of language acquisition and language learning, teachers should select those methods which are suitable for their own courses. Language learning is different from the learning of other subjects. It has its unique characteristics and the teaching methods for it should include the characteristics. With the characteristics in mind, teachers should choose those methods that are proper for language learning and can improve English teaching results. Psychology and education theories influence much on English learning process. Language teachers should be experienced in using these theories and consider English learning, teaching, students' psychology and education theories together. The contents of the quality courses are important and the methods of presenting the contents are also important. Language classes should be colorful and students in a language class should be active. Students should be encouraged to take part in the class activities, to present their ideas and cooperate with teachers in a good mood. The basic teaching methods for a language class should include the elements of communication, cooperation, practice, etc. For a language class, communication is quite important and usually communicative language teaching method is used by language teachers. Different tasks are designed to achieve different aims. Students' participation is crucial for this method. Team spirit is also an aspect to be paid attention to. Usually teacher will ask students to finish the task in a team. This can make students learn to cooperate with others and it is useful for their future career.

Thirdly, quality courses should cultivate students' thinking ability and reflect a positive outlook on life and the world and the quality courses in universities should be useful for our country's construction and development. According to different characteristics of each course, education about world outlook and outlook on life should be combined in the courses. For example, when teachers introduce or explain the main idea or theme of a passage, positive education of life should be introduced. In language teaching, teachers can teach students many things. Excellent courses should shoulder the responsibility of cultivating students' thinking ability. Thinking ability will guide and influence students' future career and their ways of doing things. Critical thinking ability can be developed in a language class. When teachers introduce a foreign language, they can train students' critical thinking ability and ask students to form a correct judgment about things. When students face different cultures, they can deal with the

problems rationally. Thinking ability is also good for students' research ability. Quality courses can develop students' thinking ability and have a positive influence on students' research ability and this is good for their further study. So in quality courses exercises and questions should be designed to cultivate students' thinking ability. More open-ended questions can be included in the courses to arouse students' interest and motivate them to think.

Fourthly, quality courses should keep up with the forefront of the social times, introduce new knowledge and solve new problems. With the changing of times, many teaching methods and much knowledge are changing. Quality courses are the excellent courses in universities, and the courses should reflect the latest developments in this field. Teachers should keep up with the development of each knowledge field and research field, introduce the latest development of knowledge to students. English majors will take up the jobs concerning with language, and they should know well about the new development about language. High-end talents should be trained with the help of teachers and the training needs the latest knowledge and scientific frontier information. Before, the knowledge students have learned in universities are out of date and when they begin their career, they find that the knowledge is not enough for their career development and they need to study new knowledge again by themselves. In order to avoid this and help students get ready for their future career, teachers should present the new knowledge to students.

The construction of quality courses is not an easy task and it requires hard work from universities and teachers. Universities should provide all necessary support for the construction of quality courses and encourage teachers to construct quality courses to meet the requirement of English education. Teachers should treat quality courses construction as an important part of their job. From the teaching aspect, constructing quality courses can improve teaching levels and make excellent courses possible. From the research aspect, constructing quality courses is an important part of educational research. The research results are beneficial to English teaching research. Teachers could form a research team to construct quality courses together. The atmosphere of research and teaching will thus be nice in universities.

Constructing quality courses are necessary for excellent university education for English majors. It is good for the education innovation of language courses. Students can benefit a lot from the quality courses and make good preparation for their future study or jobs.

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