The Application of Heuristic Method in the Teaching of Vocal Music in Higher institutions

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Abstract: With the promotion of quality education, our country has gradually attached greater importance to education, and the education sector has also invested more educational resources in the art education. Vocal music (hereafter referred to as VM) education in particular is gaining more attention and emphasis in higher institutions. Taking advantage of the current new situation, higher institutions employ available resources to introduce heuristic teaching methods (or heuristics) into VM courses. The upgrading of educational concepts and the rectification of teaching methods can help to improve students' enthusiasm and interest in learning VM lessons. which enables students to shift from passive to active learning and creates an active classroom atmosphere. Whereas the changes in classroom atmosphere can facilitate the cultivation of students' music accomplishment. This paper will analyze the problems in the current VM teaching in many institutions, and discuss the corresponding reform measures.

Keywords: Heuristic Teaching Method; Vocal Music; Institutions

Introduction

Based on relevant investigations and researches, we found that using heuristics in VM teaching can make up for the shortcomings of the traditional teaching model. While fully respecting the needs of students, heuristics can also help students develop their strengths and interests. As a result, teachers also need to make corresponding improvements to their teaching mode and adjust their way of interacting with the students, which can help to present a better teaching effect. While cultivating the interest of students, faculty need to better fulfil their teaching tasks. Therefore, it is necessary to make continuous improvements and innovations to adapt to the changing educational environment.

1. The importance of applying heuristics in VM education

In this new era, various teaching modes began to innovate and reform to meet educational needs. With the emergence of diversified teaching modes, the introduction of heuristics act as a good way to break the constraints of traditional teaching mode on VM education. Because heuristics can guide students to learn theoretical knowledge in many aspects and ways. These teaching methods are more persuasive and effective. The following passage will analyze the importance of applying heuristics in college VM education:

First of all, the heuristic method used in VM teaching is based on the needs of students. By understanding students' interests and specialties, this method will not spoon-feed students knowledge that they are not interested in. Aiming at seeking common ground while reserving differences, the general orientation remains unchanged. But we must teach students by their aptitude when it comes to the specific teaching steps. This method enables students' ideas to be fully respected and enables various types of students to communicate and exchange ideas under the guidance of different ideas. This, in turn, promotes the development of VM teaching in higher institutions [1]. Secondly, this teaching mode can guide students to combine their interests with specialties, and complete learning tasks by giving full play to their advantage. In this way, students can often open their minds with imagination rather than constraint, so as to make a greater improvement in a limited time.

2. Problems in VM teaching
2.1 Outdated teaching methods and low level of new media technology

The spiritual outlook of an individual varies in different times and social contexts, whereas VM is the cultural achievement produced under different spiritual outlooks. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the uniqueness of VM. Moreover, the traditional teaching mode cannot be used invariably in VM teaching, nor can the available teaching methods be directly copied. But some educational institutions continue to employ traditional teaching modes, instead of making innovations and changes according to the needs of the times or considering the uniqueness of VM. Students learn VM in such an atmosphere simply couldn't appreciate the beauty brought by VM in different periods. On the contrary, they will trap themselves in a music circle with fixed thinking and cannot make any improvement.

In addition, unlike new age music, traditional teaching is not inclusive as it cannot mobilize students' interest in learning VM [2]. Besides, teachers' ability to use new media is limited, and they cannot efficiently use the new media equipment in their daily teaching. Instead, they may waste a lot of time debugging the device, which takes up the valuable time of teaching. The 21st century witnessed the rapid development of science and technology, thus it is necessary to combine heuristics with new media technology.

2.2 Unreasonable teaching materials and system

In terms of selecting teaching materials for VM courses, institutions always use materials from other professional schools, instead of formulating teaching materials according to the unique personalities and characteristics of each student. As a result, it is impossible to develop their differentiated abilities, but simply impart knowledge, which fail to stimulate students' interest in learning. At present, some educational institutions do not have too many options in textbooks, and the contents are not comprehensive and lack of explanations of cases in different situations. Because VM education requires students not only to master a wealth of theoretical knowledge, but also to be proficient in applying practical training skills, it is necessary to combine the two together. But most institutions tend to teach different sections separately. For example, they may divide the sections of music theory and practice of singing, making the skills fail to be demonstrated coherently. As a result, the students ended up having no practical experience when studying theoretical knowledge, and failing to grasp knowledge during their practical training. They couldn't skillfully switch between these two skills. Eventually, the intended teaching objectives will be inconsistent with actual teaching effects. Besides, putting students with different learning abilities together can also widen the gap of abilities among students.

2.3 Unclear and vague teaching objectives

Firstly, opinions and understandings of VM are different among teachers, so the teaching team may be divided about how to design the teaching plan, making their goals divided as well. Secondly, the understandings of VM between students and teachers are also divergent. They both have no clear orientation for VM. Therefore, there may be no way for them to define what exactly VM is [3]. Thus the students are unable to grasp the teaching tasks and keep up with the pace of teachers, or even falling behind. In addition, teachers generally put too much emphasis on rhythm in VM teaching, which deviates from teaching objectives. Meanwhile, students' VM skills also need to be improved. Therefore, it is essential to have a good teaching orientation for teachers and have a basic understanding of VM among students since the deviation in concept orientation is a major factor affecting the quality of teaching.

3. How to use heuristics to show the actual effect
3.1 Promote the design of heuristic topics

In order to apply heuristics to achieve optimal teaching effectiveness and consolidate what students have learned. First of all, it is necessary to start with the topic of heuristic teaching. teachers can guide students to learn in different ways and with various topics, thereby enhancing students' enthusiasm for learning. Examples include appreciating different vocal patterns and singing skills, comparing different types of music, as well as finding some folk and pop music that students are more interested in to analyze their singing skills and vocal styles. It is also advisable to find some folk singers as cases for a

concrete analysis. Because most of these singers did not receive any systematic training or education, but make it through hard work and talent, so they share many similarities with students. Therefore, students can be guided to learn and appreciate these vocalizations, and compare whether these timbres are different. This facilitates the development of student motivation and self-directed learning skills, which can not only enrich the content of heuristics, but also make students interested.

3.2 Improve teaching guidance

In the long run, it is clear that heuristics plays a very important role in the teaching of VM. In the past, some teachers were often influenced by old teaching ideas when applying heuristics, and the teaching methods adopted were often mandatory. Although some students improved their academic performance because of this, they did not support a mandatory teaching method. Therefore, VM teaching in higher institutions should be constantly improved during the application of heuristics [4]. First of all, it is necessary to tap and make the most of the unique talents of students. For instance, in terms of teaching the knowledge of VM, teachers can provide guidance according to each student's specialties, and enrich the teaching objectives of the heuristics. In addition, students may need some understanding and assistance in certain aspects. For instance, some students may not be able to protect their vocal cords, which in turn takes a toll on their courses. Teachers should avoid a rush for quick results. Instead, they should guide students step by step to improve their vocal ability.

3.3 Optimize teaching management

Apart from the above two strategies, optimizing teaching management also plays a key role in VM teaching. Because teaching management can regulate the whole process of the application of heuristics in VM teaching, it is necessary to abandon the previously fixed teaching concept and consider the actual learning and development of students when formulating heuristic teaching goals, so as to avoid problems and negligence. In this way, students can not only achieve excellent academic results, but their vocal ability can also be consolidated, which helps to promote the future development of heuristics. Higher institutions should strengthen teaching management and help students correct problems and mistakes [5]. For instance, some students may become complacent when they made a small achievement and fail to make better use of what they have learned in their future study and development. At this point, teachers need to do more to help students make improvements and teach them how to get better results.

Conclusion

To sum up, heuristics is of great significance and necessary in VM education in higher institutions, and is of great help for students to learn VM. It can not only lay a solid foundation for their vocal singing, but also enable them to show their unique charm. Heuristics teach students by their aptitude, which can help them achieve independent learning and practice, as well as improve their musical literacy and practical ability, laying a positive and solid foundation for students.

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