

# Exploration on the infiltration strategy of traditional culture in English teaching in higher vocational colleges

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**Abstract:** Traditional Chinese culture is a precious treasure created by the Chinese people with their own wisdom. Under the new historical conditions, strengthening the education of traditional Chinese culture and penetrating traditional culture into English teaching are the requirements of the new curriculum standards. Therefore, it is of double significance to explore how to introduce the excellent traditional culture into the English teaching in higher vocational colleges. In view of the significant significance of traditional culture, this paper expounds the current situation, significance and countermeasures of traditional culture infiltration in English teaching in higher vocational colleges, in order to find the best infiltration path and improve the national self-confidence of vocational college students.

**Key words:** traditional culture; Vocational English; Penetration strategy

## Introduction

Traditional culture is the crystallization of the wisdom of the Chinese people, which has been accumulated by the sons and daughters of the Chinese people in the 5,000 years of history and civilization. Inheriting and developing traditional Chinese culture is an inevitable requirement of the development of the Chinese nation in the new era when the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation face new historical opportunities and shoulder the heavy responsibility of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The “Opinions on Implementing the Project of Inheriting and Developing Traditional Chinese Culture” calls for the comprehensive integration of traditional Chinese culture in ideological and moral education, cultural education and aesthetic education. This requires that in different stages of education, teachers should infiltrate traditional culture into subject teaching, tell Chinese stories well, and let the world know China. Vocational college students are the successors of the motherland in the future, and it is their bountiful responsibility to carry forward and inherit Chinese culture. Therefore, we combined with the teaching situation, how to guide vocational students to tell the “Chinese story”, launched an in-depth study.

## 1. The significance of integrating traditional Chinese culture into English teaching in higher vocational colleges

1. It helps to awaken students' inner motivation

Introducing traditional Chinese culture into English teaching in higher vocational colleges can effectively stimulate students' interest in English. Most vocational college students have some shortcomings in English and their interest in English is low. In the teaching process, teachers can carefully design the teaching content, take the traditional Chinese culture that students are familiar with as the communication content, and let them correctly express their understanding of Chinese culture in English, so as to improve their learning initiative and enthusiasm.

2. It is helpful to improve students' cross-cultural competence

College graduates are high-quality talents with strong technical content, and they shoulder the heavy responsibility of inheriting the excellent Chinese culture. As for English learners, if they have a blind interest in Western culture, they will be greatly affected when they carry out cross-cultural communication. Therefore, in the process of English teaching, teachers should properly compare Chinese and Western cultures and highlight the advantages of the two cultures respectively, which can not only improve students' knowledge of English, but also deepen their understanding of traditional Chinese culture, so as to carry out more in-depth cross-cultural communication and let them tell Chinese stories to the world.

3. It can help guide students to build up their cultural self-confidence

Traditional Chinese culture is a rich and profound culture. English teaching in vocational colleges should not only enable students to communicate in English, but also enable them to have the ability to present excellent traditional Chinese culture to the world, so that the world can feel the charm of Chinese culture, so as to enhance their patriotic enthusiasm, establish self-confidence and cultivate correct values. While cultivating their own comprehensive quality, they should realize the purpose of cultivating “cultural self-confidence”.

4. Help shape students' values

Chinese traditional culture is extensive and profound, with inestimable cultural value, and it is also highly practical. Many of the ideas are in line with the development trend of today's society, which is of great help to students to form positive and positive values. In English teaching, teachers can incorporate this into their teaching in order to stimulate students' interest in learning. Teachers can choose from Chinese classical poetry or proverbs, such as “not to be happy with things, not to be sad with oneself”, and let students try to translate them into English, which can not only strengthen English language training, but also let students feel a positive attitude towards life. At the same time, teachers can also choose to translate historical allusions such as “dangling the beam and piercing the stock”, so that students can feel the spirit of ancestors in the enlightening historical events, so as to form correct values.

## 2. The penetration of traditional culture in English teaching in higher vocational colleges

### 1. Students lack of interest

Under the background of multi-culture, many college students have lost interest and lack of understanding of traditional Chinese culture. At present, the lack of integration and communication of traditional culture in English teaching in higher vocational colleges leads to the occurrence of “cultural aphasia” due to the inability of many students to transmit their own culture effectively in cross-cultural communication. Throughout the history and cultural development process, our country’s culture did not pay attention to the integration of their own culture while introducing Western cultural concepts, resulting in the absence of traditional Chinese culture, many people know nothing about it. Therefore, when communicating with foreign friends, many students do not publicize our traditional culture and become the disseminators of culture. Some students only communicate according to the ideas of western countries, and fail to play their own role in communication. The reason is that they have very little understanding of traditional culture, so they don’t know how to express their traditional culture in international exchanges, and they can’t play the role of disseminators of traditional Chinese culture.

### 2. The bidirectional culture is not reflected

At present, many teachers in vocational schools ignore the mutual influence of the two cultures in English teaching, focusing only on the introduction of Western culture, while ignoring the traditional culture, thus failing to highlight the bidirectional characteristics of the two cultures. As a result, students pay too much attention to the Western culture, but fail to realize the essence and charm of the traditional culture. At present, English teaching in vocational colleges in China does not take into account both aspects of cultural exchange, but emphasizes English learning and neglects to train students’ ability to spread Chinese culture to Westerners through English, thus forming the phenomenon of Westernization.

## 3. The infiltration strategy of traditional culture in English teaching in higher vocational colleges

### 1. Optimize English teaching materials and enrich course content

In English teaching, textbooks are an important carrier for teachers to spread cultural knowledge. In order to adapt to the process of English teaching in higher vocational colleges, schools may carry out appropriate innovations in English textbooks. During the English activities, teachers can integrate English materials rich in traditional culture, such as Silk Road, tea or martial arts, so that students can understand how to express themselves in English. In addition, teachers can introduce the characteristics of Chinese and Western cultures respectively, so as to cultivate students’ critical thinking ability and enable them to understand the charm of different national cultures. With in-depth understanding, their love for the motherland arises spontaneously, which can build up their sense of cultural confidence. At present, colleges and universities can reform their English teaching system and offer courses related to traditional culture. Higher vocational college students are mainly born after 2000. They are more open-minded and can accept foreign cultures or customs more quickly. Before their values are fully formed, there will be some ideological bias, which leads to their lack of understanding of traditional Chinese culture. In this regard, schools can combine the teaching needs and characteristics of students, select the content of textbooks, or write school-based courses, loose leaf school-based courses, the traditional culture and vocational English in-depth integration, to cultivate students’ national pride.

### 2. Apply information technology to change the teaching mode

With the help of modern information technology, the selection of appropriate teaching methods and methods can achieve good teaching results. In the teaching process, teachers should give full play to the advantages of the Internet, build a teaching model containing Chinese culture, or let students watch videos on different topics, such as Chinese short stories, Chinese food, Chinese festivals, and Chinese intangible cultural heritage. In addition, documentaries with foreign themes, such as A Bite of China (English Version), also provide a good platform for us to showcase the profound Chinese culture. In English class, teachers play video clips to students, which are not only pure accent, but also rich in knowledge and interest, which are good materials. These materials, together with the teacher’s guidance, can help them improve their language skills, deepen their understanding of traditional Chinese culture, and tell Chinese stories in English.

At the same time, teachers not only need to innovate the teaching model, but also need to optimize and screen the teaching content, from the simple teaching of textbook content to the indoctrination of Western culture to the comparison of Chinese and Western cultures. In this way, students can learn not only about Western culture, but also about traditional Chinese culture. For example, when telling the Western “Mother’s Day”, teachers can introduce the traditional Chinese “filial piety” culture. When we explain the western traditional festivals like Thanksgiving, we can connect it with the traditional festivals like Mid-Autumn Festival, and we can intersperse some Chinese stories, such as “A meal is a thousand pieces of gold”. In this way, students can not only understand the excellent traditional culture of China, but also experience the differences between Chinese and Western cultures, correct their incorrect English pronunciation, master more English grammar and words, and be a qualified storyteller.

### 3. Innovate the teacher concept and improve the comprehensive quality

In order for English teaching in higher vocational colleges to truly achieve the goal of carrying forward the excellent Chinese culture, it is necessary to have a group of teachers who are enthusiastic about the excellent Chinese culture and have a high level, which requires schools to strengthen the cultivation and training of English teachers. Specifically, we can start from the following points: First, in the extracurricular activities of English teachers, we should strengthen the study of traditional Chinese culture. Due to their weak traditional cultural concepts, some English teachers need to establish the concept of “lifelong learning”, timely master the English expressions

commonly used in Chinese traditional culture, and keep familiar with the current hot social events, Chinese characteristics and other English expressions, so as to integrate English language ability with excellent Chinese traditional culture; Second, the training of English teachers should be intensified. Various training courses and lectures will be held to let teachers understand the breadth and depth of fine Chinese culture and the significance of cultural dissemination. In their usual teaching activities, teachers pass on the knowledge of fine Chinese culture to others, thus promoting cultural exchanges around the world; Third, they should make full use of various ways to build a learning platform for the majority of teachers on traditional Chinese culture. Strengthen the communication among English teachers in vocational colleges, and through school-enterprise cooperation, make teachers understand the language needs of enterprises and society for students in vocational colleges. At the same time, the teachers absorb the practice and experience of the excellent Chinese culture in English teaching, so as to improve their professional level.

#### 4. Carry out extracurricular activities and create a second classroom

In classroom teaching, in addition to paying attention to the integration of traditional culture, some practical links should be added, so that students can actively participate in some relevant practical activities, so as to promote the exchange and collision of Chinese and Western cultures. For example, some activities such as concerts, dance parties and English corners can be held to broaden students' horizons, deepen their understanding of the differences between Chinese and Western cultures, stimulate students' enthusiasm for cross-cultural communication and deepen their understanding of different cultures. For another example, by comparing the cooking culture of the kitchen, students can understand the differences between Chinese and Western food cultures. First, Chinese food focuses on frying with high fire. Chinese people think that the taste of food is very important, and they pay great attention to the taste, and they also pay more attention to the nutrition of the food. Second, Chinese people have great etiquette and traditional culture at the dinner table, while Westerners pay attention to the balance of food. Chinese people prefer to use chopsticks, while Westerners prefer to use knives and forks. The form of banquet is also different. Westerners prefer buffets and pay attention to elegance, while Chinese prefer a big table and pay attention to traditional etiquette. In addition, we can also hold some debates about the collision of Chinese and Western cultures, so that students can actively participate in, and provide students with more internship opportunities for cultural exchange, which can not only effectively improve students' English ability, but also take the initiative to inherit and carry forward traditional culture.

## Concluding Remarks

To sum up, Chinese culture is an intangible treasure for every Chinese. The infiltration of traditional Chinese culture in vocational college English can not only improve students' cultural quality, but also cultivate their ability to tell Chinese stories and strengthen their national cultural identity. In this paper, it is proposed to optimize the English teaching materials and enrich the course content. Applying information technology to change the teaching mode; The suggestion of reforming teachers' ideas, improving comprehensive quality and carrying out extra-curricular activities, and creating a second classroom, hopes to strengthen students' humanistic quality and lay the foundation for realizing national rejuvenation.

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