

A Research on strategies for improving College English Teaching from the perspective of Curriculum Ideological and Political Education

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Abstract: English is a comprehensive subject which is both instrumental, humanistic and ideological, and its course content itself contains rich ideological and political connotations. It is necessary for college English teaching to explore its ideological and political elements in the new era and give full play to the role of discipline education. In view of this, on the basis of explaining the necessity of ideological and political construction of college English curriculum, this paper actively explores effective strategies to improve the quality of college English teaching from the perspective of ideological and political education, so as to continuously improve the quality of English teaching and better play the role of English subject education.

Key words: College English; Curriculum ideological and political education; Promotion strategy

Introduction: In June 2020, the Ministry of Education issued the Guiding Outline of Curriculum Ideological and Political Construction in Colleges and Universities, which clearly put forward the overall goal and specific content of curriculum ideological and political construction. The Outline also emphasizes: “Ideological and political construction should be comprehensively promoted in the teaching of all colleges and universities, all majors and all disciplines, and fully reflect the effect of cultivating virtues and talents.” As a compulsory public basic course for students of all majors, English courses are characterized by instrumental, humanistic and ideological characteristics. However, for a long time in the past, College English teaching has been carried out around its instrumental nature, and its humanistic and ideological nature, which has been rarely involved, resulting in students’ insufficient understanding of the humanistic nature of English courses. Under the guideline of ideological and political education of curriculum, how to adapt to the reform trend, deepen the ideological and political reform, promote the construction of English curriculum and ideological and political education in the same direction form a synergistic effect, improve the effectiveness of education have become a hot topic in the reform of college English teaching at this stage.

I. The necessity of ideological and political construction of college English curriculum

English is an important course in the talent training system of universities, which plays an important role in cultivating students’ professional ability and shaping their ideology. In the traditional teaching mode, college English teaching is mostly dominated by grammar, vocabulary and oral English teaching, which mainly reflects its practicability, but neglects the cultivation of students’ mainstream values to some extent. Therefore, it is imperative to promote the integration of college English and ideological and political education. Only by infiltrating ideological and political education in college English teaching can we give full play to the role of subject education and promote the all-round development of students.

1. The implementation of “ideological and political education in curriculum” is an important way to practice morality and cultivate talents

In 2017, the CPC Central Committee and The State Council issued the Opinions on Strengthening and Improving Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities under the New Situation, which clearly pointed out that with moral education as the foundation, ideal and belief education as the core, and socialist core values as the guidance, ideological value guidance should run through the whole process and every link of education. The emergence of the concept of ideological and political education in the curriculum is an inevitable choice to adapt to the background of the new era and further improve the work of ideological and political education in universities, and the only way to train socialism builders and successors in the new era.

2. College English can be the companion of “curriculum ideological and political education”

As a general course generally offered in universities, English itself plays an important role in ideological and political education. However, in the actual teaching, this kind of course does not give full play to its rich ideological and political education function. On the one hand, as far as teachers are concerned, some teachers have insufficient understanding. They think that students have received English education for many years and have a full understanding of this course, so they do not prepare lessons carefully and seriously, and the teaching process is superficial. Being lack of research on the latest educational concepts and teaching design, which may easily lead to a single teaching method and fall into a kind of “reading from the book”. On the other hand, for students, they tend to take mastering the subject knowledge of their major and improving their English level as the main task of learning, thus ignoring the deep learning of Chinese culture, which is easy to lead to half-understanding, or “Chinese culture aphasia”, cultural self-confidence and other problems. In fact, many of the contents in the current college English textbooks involve the basic overview of China, philosophy and religion, literature and art, education and sports, scientific and technological development, traditional festivals, food culture, clothing and accessories, architectural features, major tourist resorts and cultural sites, etc., which describe the country’s mountains and rivers, geography and festival culture for students. While learning authentic English expressions, students can enhance their national self-confidence and generate a strong cultural

self-confidence, so that they can show the colorful culture of China to the world without any timidity.

3. There are still shortcomings in the traditional teaching mode of college English

At present, in college English teaching, the author finds through observation that the traditional teacher-centered teaching methods are still widely existing. Teachers are the main speakers, implementers and promoters of the course. In this process, students are followers and recipients. However, the subjective initiative of students to study, explore, research and ask questions independently of the curriculum has not been fully mobilized. In addition, some schools have aging teaching equipment and are not equipped with multimedia ones, which is not attractive to students, which ultimately affects the teaching effect and can not fully and deeply show the broad and profound traditional Chinese culture.

II. College English teaching strategies from the perspective of curriculum ideology and politics education

1. Improve the competence of English teachers in carrying out curriculum ideology and politics education

From the perspective of curriculum ideology and politics education, teachers, as the organizers and implementers of English teaching, should first strengthen their cultural self-confidence and their national feelings. In English teaching, teachers should guide students to compare Chinese and Western languages and cultures, and make a dialectical analysis of Western culture, so as to help students broaden their careers and build up cultural confidence. From the perspective of the course content, the English course contains rich Western culture and values. If the teacher does not pay attention to the in-depth analysis and interpretation of the Western culture, it will easily cause confusion. Therefore, the reform of English teaching under the curriculum ideological and political education needs to cultivate teachers' ideological and political awareness and strengthen their competence. First of all, teachers should have a comprehensive understanding of the educational value of English courses, dig deep into the educational elements in textbooks, pay attention to the integration of Chinese cultural elements in teaching, and guide students to make a comparison between Chinese and Western cultures, so as to make an objective analysis of Western culture and values. For example, some description of the Western civilization history is involved in English course, which often contains Western-centered ideas. In the teaching process, teachers should pay attention to the selection and analysis of teaching content, and guide students to carry out critical thinking. Secondly, teachers should pay attention to the integration of ideological and political elements into various links such as teaching objectives, teaching activities, and the evaluation and feedback of teaching. For example, the famous line in Kennedy's Inaugural Address, "Ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country", is a famous piece of political speech. In the traditional teaching mode, teachers tend to pay more attention to the analysis and explanation of their cultural background, language and rhetoric, while in the ideological and political perspective of the curriculum, teachers can guide students to analyze and compare Chinese and Western political speeches and analyze the differences between the two from the perspective of national systems. In teaching practice, teachers can guide students to analyze and understand the deep meaning of words such as "equality" and "freedom" from the perspective of vocabulary based on the social background at that time; At the discourse level, teachers can guide students to understand the stage and consistency of the inaugural speeches of previous American presidents by comparing them, and analyze the differences between Chinese and Western political speeches. In addition, teachers can also integrate relevant ideological factors into it to encourage students to enhance their patriotic feelings through the description of revolutionary spirit and the analysis of language writing background.

2. Strengthen the synergy of ideological and political education and core competency in the curriculum

From the essence, both the curriculum ideological and political education and core literacy are about "who to cultivate, how to cultivate, for whom to cultivate".

These are the positive responses to a series of key questions. An important purpose of English teaching is to cultivate professionals with intercultural communication ability, cooperation ability and international vision. From this point of view, it has the goal consistency with curriculum ideological and political education. The following questions should be paid attention to in college English teaching, which is based on the combination of curriculum ideological and political education with core qualities: How to embody morality within talents cultivation? How to cultivate the core quality better? To solve these two problems, first of all, language ability is the foundation of English core competence. In English teaching, discourse is an important input material for students to learn English, which not only includes basic knowledge such as language and culture knowledge and language application skills, but also contains the author's emotional attitude and value orientation. Teachers should guide students to critically interpret and analyze the cultural connotations of the texts. Therefore, English teaching from the perspective of curriculum ideological and political education needs a rational interpretation, objective analysis and evaluation of language and culture. Secondly, the educational function of cultural consciousness should be brought into play. From the ideological and political perspective of the curriculum, teachers should not only guide students to understand the communication methods and social history of Western countries with an open and inclusive attitude, but also pay attention to cultivating students' awareness of cultural discrimination, guiding them to strengthen their cultural self-confidence, and improving their cultural aesthetic ability, so as to fully demonstrate the educational value of English. Thirdly, they should pay attention to the cultivation of thinking quality. Under the curriculum ideological and political vision, teachers should pay attention to the cultivation of creative thinking and critical thinking. Take Christmas as an example, in teaching related content, teachers should pay attention to cultivate students' ability to: introduce the origin and celebration of Christmas; Objective analysis and evaluation of the cultural connotation and inner values of Christmas; To introduce a traditional Chinese festival and compare it with Christmas from the perspective of culture and values, so as to promote the development of students' critical

thinking ability.

3. Improve the guarantee mechanism to support the curriculum ideological and political construction

Curriculum ideological and political construction is a systematic project, and improving the guarantee mechanism and doing a good job in coordination is the key to ensure the effect of curriculum ideological and political construction. The reform of college English teaching from the perspective of curriculum ideology and politics needs more overall management from top to bottom. First of all, local education authorities should introduce relevant policies, such as promoting curriculum ideological and political quality courses and selecting famous curriculum ideological and political teachers, so as to encourage teachers to participate in curriculum ideological and political construction and improve their enthusiasm in engaging in it. Secondly, the academic community should also help the teachers to improve their ability to carry out ideological and political activities. Since the idea of ideological and political curriculum was put forward, teaching material publishing institutions such as foreign teachers' clubs and foreign research clubs have explored the compilation and publication of English teaching materials which contain ideological and political elements to help promote the construction of ideological and political curriculum. Thirdly, schools should also actively build a communication bridge between English major teachers and ideological and political teachers, and provide scientific guidance for English teachers to carry out ideological and political construction in the curriculum. At the same time, the teaching and research office of the department should also actively promote the ideological and political construction of English courses, set up a curriculum ideological and political construction team, create a good atmosphere, and give full play to the role of ideological and political education.

4. Improve the output-based ideological and political evaluation system

Under the curriculum ideological and political vision, we should strengthen the output-based consciousness and promote the integration of ideological and political elements in English teaching, so as to improve the English teaching evaluation system. First of all, in terms of grading objectives, we should pay attention to the detection and evaluation of students' ideological and political accomplishment; Secondly, in terms of evaluation methods, we should pay attention to the diversification of evaluation methods, integrate ideological and political elements into formative evaluation and summarized evaluation, and conduct a comprehensive evaluation of students' classroom performance, learning process and learning results from the perspective of ideological and political analysis; Set up students' ideological and political archives, and conduct a full cycle evaluation of the development of students' ideological and political literacy, making it an independent ideological and political evaluation system. For example, in English writing teaching, teachers can set composition topics around social hot topics, such as aviation and astronautics, Hangzhou Asian Games, etc., so as to examine students' language ability, examine their attention to social current affairs, understand their world view, and take it as an important evaluation index, so as to achieve a comprehensive evaluation of students.

In short, from the perspective of curriculum ideological and political education, teachers should constantly improve their ability to execute it, pay attention to the coordination of education and talent development, and integrate curriculum ideological and political education into all aspects of teaching plan, teaching activity organization, teaching assessment and evaluation, so as to give full play to the role of English education and improve students' ideological and moral quality, and thus to guide students to establish correct cultural outlook, national outlook, world outlook and values, and strive to train them to become qualified and reliable builders and successors of the socialism.

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