

# Analysis on Employment Situation and Existing Problems of Foreign Language Graduates in Higher Vocational Colleges

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**Abstract:** This study focuses on the current employment situation and existing problems of foreign language graduates in higher vocational colleges, and puts forward corresponding countermeasures. Based on the current employment situation, through the overview of the employment situation and employment situation of vocational foreign language graduates, it is found that the graduates of this major are facing many employment challenges. Then, the paper discusses the factors and formation problems that affect the employment of foreign language graduates in vocational colleges from the perspectives of society, school restrictions and personal constraints. Finally, the paper puts forward some countermeasures to these problems, including reforming employment concept, strengthening vocational education and broadening employment channels, so as to improve the employment quality of vocational foreign language graduates.

**Key words:** Higher vocational education; Foreign language major; Graduates; Employment status; Problems exist

## Introduction

The employment situation of foreign language majors in higher vocational colleges shows a diversified trend, but it also faces some challenges. In the field of employment, the graduates are mainly concentrated in trade, tourism, education and other industries. However, due to the fierce market competition and diverse job demands, the employment positions of some graduates are not completely compatible with their major. This includes the lack of use of foreign language in practical work, and the disconnection between professional skills and enterprise needs. In addition, with the development of artificial intelligence and machine translation technology, pure translation or basic foreign language service positions have been impacted. Therefore, improving the comprehensive vocational ability of graduates, enhancing the matching degree of practical experience and skills, and broadening the career development path have become the key points of the reform of foreign language education in higher vocational colleges.

## I. Analysis of the current employment situation of foreign language graduates in Higher vocational education

### 1. Overview of employment status

Vocational foreign language graduates have a broad space for development, and the employment situation also shows a diversified trend, taking root in tourism, business, education, translation and other fields. In the past few decades, with the accelerated process of globalization and the increasingly close communication with China's foreign countries, the demand for foreign language talents, especially practical foreign language talents, has increased year by year. However, due to the oversupply of foreign language talents in the market and the lack of practical English ability in exam-oriented education, more and more foreign language graduates are facing job competition and great pressure. In addition, with the popularization of foreign language education and the overall improvement of foreign language level, and even the development of high and new technologies, a lot of translation and communication products have evolved. In order to stand out in the job market, vocational foreign language graduates need to have more solid language skills, more rich cross-cultural communication ability and stronger professional adaptability. In other words, the employment situation of foreign language graduates in higher vocational colleges is not optimistic. Although there is a wide range of fields and a certain demand for talents, only the excellent ones can stand out.

### 2. Analysis of employment situation

With the acceleration of globalization and the deepening of China's opening to the outside world, foreign language talents have always been a hot spot in the market. On the one hand, traditional industries such as foreign trade, translation and education are still the main employment destinations for foreign language graduates. Especially with the promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative, the demand for professionals with language skills in relevant regions is increasing. On the other hand, with the rise of the Internet industry and the expansion of multinational companies' business in China, foreign language graduates also have the opportunity to enter a wider range of fields, such as international marketing, cross-cultural communication, customer support and other new positions. However, with the development of translation software and AI translation technology, the traditional translation industry is facing great pressure, and other industries are gradually introducing information technology and information systems, which makes basic foreign language service positions face the dilemma of elimination. In other words, the employment situation of foreign language graduates in higher vocational colleges is not optimistic. Although there are still many industries, enterprises and jobs to connect with, few meet the expectations of graduates and meet the needs of jobs, and they are also facing difficulties and quagmire.

## II. Analysis of the employment problems of foreign language graduates in higher vocational colleges

### 1. Social aspect

We can intuitively see the diversified demand for foreign talents, but often higher vocational colleges adopt exam-oriented education and management methods, resulting in a mismatch between the language skills of graduates and the market demand. In addition, enterprises

attach great importance to the comprehensive quality of graduates, including communication ability, cooperation ability, problem solving ability, etc., which are ignored and missing in higher vocational education, which further stresses the contradiction between market demand and talent training. Of course, with the popularization of foreign language education, the number of people engaged in foreign language related work is increasing, and the competition in the industry is becoming particularly fierce. Vocational college graduates are easy to be repeatedly frustrated in the process of job hunting, and may have negative emotions such as inferiority, anxiety and sensitivity, which will affect employment opportunities and career development. Therefore, in order to improve the employment rate and employment quality of foreign language majors in higher vocational colleges, we must start from the social level, in-depth analysis and active response to the challenges.

#### 2. School restrictions

School restrictions are also a major factor affecting the employment of foreign language graduates in higher vocational colleges. First of all, there is a shortage of resources, which strengthens the mismatch between students' ability and the needs of enterprises. Such as the limitations of teachers, teaching facilities and other aspects, but also limited students' practical experience accumulation, comprehensive development of skills and qualities and work adaptability development. Moreover, the employment guidance service system is not perfect, the lack of effective career planning and employment guidance, so that students' understanding of the job market and self-positioning there is a deviation, a direct impact on the formation of employment view, as well as job selection and employment. Finally, the curriculum and teaching methods are not updated with The Times, which makes it difficult for students to meet the changing demands of the job market. To a certain extent, the employment competitiveness of foreign language graduates in higher vocational colleges is weakened.

#### 3. Personal constraints

In the process of employment, vocational foreign language graduates are also affected by self-ability, emotion and other aspects, mainly as follows: first, by cognitive limitations. They lack accurate judgment of their own ability and market demand, and can not accurately match their personal advantages and career requirements. Second, lack of actual ability. Due to various reasons, some graduates' foreign language application ability and cross-cultural communication ability do not meet the requirements of employers, which directly limits their employment options and development space. Third, the lack of career planning. Some graduates do not have a clear career goal and lack long-term consideration for their future career development, which makes them a little passive in the job market. Fourth, recurrent emotional problems, including fear of competition, excessive anxiety, lack of self-confidence and other psychological factors. To sum up, vocational foreign language graduates have some problems at the personal level, such as misunderstanding of cognition, mismatch of ability, lack of planning and unstable mentality.

### III. Vocational foreign language graduates employment solutions

#### 1. Innovate the employment concept and break the ideological bondage

In the current ever-changing social and economic environment, vocational foreign language graduates are faced with a complex and changeable employment situation. The traditional employment concept is obviously no longer suitable for the complex environment. Therefore, innovating the employment concept and breaking the ideological bondage has become an important prerequisite for the successful employment of the foreign language major graduates. To innovate the employment concept, first of all, we should abandon the fixed thinking set and establish the correct employment values, that is, the idea of respecting "people". The traditional employment concept focuses on the core goal of stability, ignoring the matching degree of personal interest, career development and market demand. With the progress of society, the job market is becoming more diversified and international, and foreign language graduates should realize that employment is not only about finding a job, but more important is to fit oneself, realize personal value and career planning. On this basis, we should break through the traditional occupational restrictions, geographical restrictions, etc., with the idea of "exploration" to choose jobs and employment. With the application of Internet technology, new forms of employment such as remote work and freelance work have been popularized, which are also the landing places for foreign language graduates. However, if schools, enterprises and the government work together, career guidance can be integrated into professional teaching to help students understand industry trends, cultivate market sensitivity and career planning ability. At the same time, all sectors of society should take an active part in creating an open, inclusive and innovative employment atmosphere through policy guidance and publicity. This is bound to cultivate modern foreign language talents with complex abilities, open minds and innovative employment views, and drive them to actively find jobs and start businesses, and participate in social labor. To sum up, innovating employment concepts and breaking the ideological shackles are important prerequisites for the employment of modern foreign language majors. Only by constantly adapting to the changes of The Times and actively adjusting their self-positioning can they seize the opportunities in the changeable job market and maximize their own value.

#### 2. Strengthen vocational education to enhance talent competitiveness

Under the background of globalization and information age, vocational foreign language graduates are required to meet the positions with high composite ability and sufficient practical accumulation, so their personal ability should naturally change closely with the changes of the market. The core of strengthening vocational education lies in deepening educational reform and building a talent training mechanism closely combined with industrial development. This requires tripartite cooperation between education authorities, educational institutions and enterprises to ensure that teaching content matches market demand. Specifically, the actual needs of enterprises and cutting-edge technologies can be introduced into classroom teaching through the model of school-enterprise cooperation and the combination of work and study, so that students can learn in practice and practice in study, thereby improving their vocational skills. To enhance the competitiveness

of talents, it is necessary to pay attention to the cultivation of comprehensive quality of students majoring in foreign language. On the basis of foreign language ability, students should enhance their cross-cultural communication ability, teamwork ability and innovative thinking ability, so that they can become compound talents who know both foreign language and professional knowledge. For example, through practical activities such as Model United Nations conference and international business negotiation, students' practical application ability can be exercised, and vocational students' international vision and global vision can be cultivated imperceptibly. On this basis, it is necessary to check the gaps in the existing talent training mode. For example, to build a high-level teaching team, more professional training and academic research support should be provided to foreign language teachers, teachers should be encouraged to participate in international exchanges and cooperation, and their teaching level and scientific research ability should be improved. For another example, a diversified and comprehensive evaluation system should be established, including students' practical ability, innovation ability and social service ability into the evaluation indicators, so as to promote the all-round development of students' ability. In short, to enhance the training level of foreign language professionals in higher vocational colleges requires the joint efforts of the government, educational institutions, enterprises and all sectors of society, which is worth our in-depth research and exploration.

### 3. Expand employment channels and actively build cooperation platforms

Actively building cooperation platforms aims to build a diversified employment ecosystem, provide vocational foreign language graduates with broader and more flexible employment options, and promote the effective docking of educational resources with social needs. First of all, expanding employment channels means breaking the traditional employment model and encouraging vocational foreign language graduates to extend to multiple fields and industries. In addition to traditional occupations such as foreign language teachers and translators, graduates need to improve themselves and adapt to diverse working environments by expanding their careers in fields such as international trade, multinational companies, tourism, cultural communication, foreign affairs reception and international conference services in order to accumulate multiple abilities and practices. Secondly, to build a new education and training model of school-enterprise linkage and integration of industry and education, through the establishment of a stable internship and training base, so that students have the opportunity to contact the real work scene during the study period, which helps students to go hand in hand with theory and practice, and prepare for employment and entrepreneurship on the basis of timely understanding of industry dynamics. At the same time, schools can jointly develop courses with enterprises, invite industry experts to participate in teaching, and provide targeted career guidance and employment services, so as to enhance students' professional quality. Finally, higher vocational colleges can establish cooperative relationships with overseas colleges and universities to set up student exchange programs, or establish contacts with international organizations and foreign enterprises to provide students with international internships and employment opportunities. Through an international educational background and work experience, students can not only improve their cross-cultural communication skills, but also gain more opportunities in the globalized job market. To sum up, building an open, diversified and interconnected employment ecosystem can provide students with a broader space for career development.

## Concluding Remarks

In general, vocational foreign language graduates are faced with a series of employment challenges, including the disconnection between social needs and professional training, the insufficient allocation of educational resources, and the mismatch between personal abilities and market demands. In order to improve this situation, it is necessary to update the employment concept, strengthen vocational education and expand the job market, and give more opportunities for practice and internship to graduates of this major through concrete measures, so as to enhance their core competitiveness and employment quality. At the same time, schools, enterprises and government departments should strengthen cooperation to jointly create a broader employment space for vocational foreign language graduates, promote their smooth integration into the society and realize their own value.

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