

# A Study on the Teaching Model of College English Writing under the guidance of Constructivism Theory

Yuhan Sun

Qingdao Vocational College of Engineering, Qingdao, Shandong 266109

**Abstract:** In the teaching of English writing in colleges and universities, constructivism advocates that by building a challenging and inspiring learning environment, students' initiative and creativity can be stimulated, their writing and expression ability can be improved, and students' academic accomplishment and interdisciplinary thinking can be promoted. In practice, it inspires students to think independently and explore independently. At the same time, it adopts question-based and collaborative teaching methods, so that more students can communicate and interact in class, and teachers can answer questions and make objective evaluation. In view of this, this paper explores the basic concepts of the constructivism theory, and explains the significance of college English writing teaching innovation under the guidance of the constructivism theory and the specific model construction strategy, hoping to provide reference for front-line educators.

**Key words:** Constructivism; College English; Writing teaching; Teaching mode

## Introduction

Under the guidance of the constructivism theory, English writing teaching in colleges and universities requires front-line teachers to focus on the concrete analysis of students' real English foundation, writing ability and knowledge level, so as to guide teaching and educational innovation, and strive to build a space conducive to college students' independent thinking and independent learning, help students' English writing level and improve the level of knowledge application. In this process, teachers should let students really participate in learning and interaction, so that students can master more English writing methods and skills through repeated practice, refining language, optimizing sentences and paragraphs, and realize the improvement of writing ability and English level through practice. Based on the constructivism theory, the following is a specific discussion on the teaching model of English writing in colleges and universities:

## 1. An overview of constructivism theory

In 1966, the American psychologist Jean. Piaget first put forward the theory of constructivism, the core of which is to regard cognition as the active construction on the basis of the subject's existing knowledge and experience, namely cognitive constructivism. After this theory was put forward, a group of experts and scholars studied the development of constructivism from different angles. On this basis, Vygotsky, a former Soviet psychologist, emphasized the importance of social, cultural and historical background on individual development, and the influence of culture on adolescents was realized through the interaction of adults or peers higher than their own level, namely, social constructivism.

Compared with traditional knowledge imparts, constructivism puts more emphasis on students' active construction of their own knowledge system through interaction, communication and reflection with the environment, and emphasizes the importance of individual cognitive processes such as students' emotions, attitudes and thinking abilities. Its core idea is that students do not acquire knowledge passively through teachers, but construct knowledge through their own thinking, interpretation and reflection. Teachers should not only simply impart knowledge, but also guide and guide students to construct their own knowledge system. At the same time, constructivism also emphasizes the continuous construction and reconstruction of students' own cognition and understanding in the interaction with the environment and others.

In college English writing teaching, the theory of constructivism is applied to the cultivation of students' creative thinking, writing expression skills and academic accomplishment. Teachers should not only impart subject knowledge, but also guide students to think, stimulate students' interest, encourage students to express themselves, and establish learning communities so as to cultivate students' critical thinking, creative thinking and writing ability.

## 2. The advantages of constructivism theory in college English writing teaching

### (1) Stimulate students' subjective initiative

Constructivism theory attaches importance to students' learning initiative and emphasizes that learners realize knowledge internalization through interpretation and construction of experience. In college English writing teaching, teachers can encourage students to think and explore independently by creating challenging and inspiring learning situations, so as to stimulate students' initiative and creativity and improve their writing level. For example, when the topic of "The advantages and disadvantages of online teaching" is taken as the writing topic, the teacher can ask students to express their own opinions according to their own online course experience by adopting various learning methods such as open questions and cooperative discussion among students, and then express them in combination with corresponding corpus. The teacher can guide the students to construct their own knowledge system through their own thinking and creation.

### (2) Improve English writing and expression ability

According to constructivism theory, the construction of knowledge depends on the language expression ability of learners, and language is the medium through which they construct knowledge and the product of the interaction between individuals and society. On the basis of

constructivism and in combination with Saussure's semiotics, English linguist Halliday proposed the cooperative fusion of meaning and form at the level of language construction. The two are no longer related to each other but operate separately, and the form should appear as a set of whole experience system. In college English writing teaching, teachers can stimulate students' interest in language expression and creativity through analysis and deconstruction of texts, help students master language expression skills, methods and rules, and thus improve students' writing and expression ability. In addition, by providing feedback and guidance, teachers can help students revise and improve, cultivate students' self-reflection ability and critical thinking, and promote students' further improvement in writing expression.

(3) Promote academic literacy and interdisciplinary thinking

Constructivism advocates students to internalize knowledge and become skilled through active learning and practical exploration. In college English writing teaching, teachers can promote students' academic accomplishment and the formation of interdisciplinary thinking by guiding students to read, analyze and explore closely. By guiding students to read literature and write academic papers, teachers can help students to have a deep understanding of subject knowledge and understand the research methods and topics of different disciplines, so as to form an interdisciplinary thinking mode. In addition, teachers can improve students' comprehensive quality by cultivating students' reading ability and research skills, thus laying a solid foundation for students' English writing and future professional development.

### 3. College English Writing teaching model under the guidance of constructivism theory

(1) Clear teaching objectives and make good preparation before class

As college English teachers, under the guidance of constructivism theory, they should make the following preparations before class: 1. It is feasible to define the writing format of this lesson in order of time, narrative, importance, etc. 2. Take the way of definition, classification, contrast, etc., also need to plan well in advance and make clear requirements. 3. Prepare writing materials for students to choose. Since college students themselves have certain ability to collect and integrate materials, teachers can guide students to find and integrate materials by themselves starting from "material seeds". In addition, teachers also need to clarify the objectives of classroom teaching and corresponding teaching links and activities, focus on the cultivation of students' ability and quality, cultivate students' classroom learning initiative and creativity, and let students adhere to and form good English learning habits for a long time. It is worth noting that teachers should also take into account the English learning needs of students of different foundations and levels, so as to match the teaching objectives and links to meet the individual needs of students.

(2) Create appropriate situations to guide students to study by themselves

Situational teaching is a teaching method based on real situation and students' practical experience. It emphasizes students' subjectivity and participation, which can effectively mobilize students' learning enthusiasm, promote students' positive thinking, achieve good teacher-student interaction, achieve a relaxed and harmonious humanistic environment in English classroom, and better realize humanistic education through experience in real situations. To promote students' understanding and mastery of knowledge. In college English teaching, designing writing situations can help students improve their English writing ability and application ability by simulating real situations. To be specific, college English teachers can take the following measures: 1. Choose appropriate writing situations, such as specific life scenes and work scenes, to assist students in scenario-based English writing, which can be dialogues related to asking for directions, restaurant service scenes, etc. Of course, in the selection of situations, we should consider the gender, age and learning background of college students, so as to fit the knowledge structure and English basis of college students for effective teaching. 2. Arrange reasonable learning tasks, such as clear learning task difficulty level, timely adjust the task difficulty level to help students internalize knowledge and proficiency. Consider the real English writing level of college students, avoid the task is too complicated or lengthy, pay attention to the authenticity and feasibility of the task, so as to give play to the students' subjective initiative, let the students adapt to the situation to complete the English writing task. 3. Define the writing topic, such as "the impact of advertising on people's life", guide students to write with advertising related real events or problems, so that the majority of students can study and write around the topic in class, so as to achieve the purpose of writing applicability.

In a word, situational teaching in college English teaching through the construction of appropriate situations and tasks, so that students can master English knowledge and improve writing ability in practice, promote the professional and effective teaching.

(3) To determine the writing topic, group cooperation to explore

Under the guidance of the constructivism theory, English teachers in colleges and universities should actively explore efficient teaching models in order to improve the teaching effect of English writing. The specific methods are as follows: 1. Providing learning resources: Teachers can provide students with a variety of learning resources, such as explanation videos, literature, network resources, etc., so that students can consult, select, integrate and analyze these resources independently to build their own knowledge structure. 2. Group negotiation design enlightening questions: Teachers can put forward open and leading questions, encourage students to understand and apply the concepts they have learned through group discussion and cooperation, and finally define the ideas and framework of group writing. 3. Study group interactive exploration, the teacher encourages the group members to give full play to their imagination and creativity, carry out writing exercises based on the project, master writing methods and skills, and improve their writing ability. Every student provides creativity and writing, which enriches the English classroom teaching, provides more English teaching forms and models, and makes the reform and innovation of English teaching in higher education possible. The author believes that under the guidance of the constructivism theory, the group cooperation to explore and finally submit the results can truly reflect the students' cooperation ability and writing ability, and can realize the innovation of education and teaching evaluation, and help the modernization and comprehensive development of English writing education.

#### (4) Display of learning results, multiple interactive evaluation

Teaching effect evaluation can play a role in testing teachers' professional level, working attitude, teaching methods and students' learning level. The teaching concept under the guidance of constructivism emphasizes that teachers should observe students' classroom performance and make summary evaluation based on the works submitted by groups, emphasizing the diversity, comprehensiveness and richness of evaluation. Different from the previous single evaluation link, constructivism advocates students' mutual evaluation and students' self-evaluation for teaching, focuses on college students' individual abilities for reflection and exploration, and cultivates students' interest in English writing. Through the method of student mutual evaluation, the writing achievements of different students and different groups under the same topic are compared. In the process of comparison, teachers and students can analyze the English compositions submitted by different groups word by word and in sections to arouse students' enthusiasm to participate in class. They can compare the English compositions submitted by different groups from different dimensions such as grammar, vocabulary use, discourse cohesion and topic expansion. Under the guidance of the constructivism theory, this teaching method can more truly reflect the level of students' English writing and the level of students' participation in class, and college English teachers can continue to dig deeper in the future English writing teaching.

### Concluding Remarks

Under the influence of constructivism theory, different learning conditions and teaching models have an important impact on the teaching effect, especially in college English writing teaching, it is necessary to cultivate students' correct and positive English learning attitude and motivation; At the same time, it is necessary to cultivate students' innovative consciousness and creative thinking, and comprehensively improve students' English writing ability. Finally, focusing on the thinking mode of college students, we can effectively improve their English literacy and writing ability by means of independent learning, using tools to learn and cooperating with others. In the future, college English writing teaching needs to continue to update and develop, especially in response to the constructivism theory, focusing on the cultivation of students' personal ability and quality.

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