

# Application of Digital Network Teaching Platform in the Ideological Education of College English

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**Abstract:** College English is a compulsory course in general education with long duration and wide coverage. It itself has strong humanistic, ideological and moral qualities. College English teachers should fully explore the ideological and political factors in the curriculum to achieve the cultivation of students' language abilities and the improvement of students' moral character. The popularization of Internet and mobile technology brings about new challenges and opportunities for English teachers to integrate language teaching with ideological and moral education. In conformity to the trend of information development in higher education, the study focuses on the construction of a network teaching platform for the integrated development of college English and ideological education, and proposes ways to make full use of the digital network teaching platform in the regular teaching of college English, with an aim to effectively improve the moral education of college English and help to shape the students' characters and values when imparting the language knowledge and skills.

**Keywords:** Digital Network Teaching Platform; College English; Ideological Education

## 1. Introduction

According to the *Teaching Requirements for College English Courses* released by Ministry of Education, college English courses are expected to take advantage of traditional classroom instruction, combined with web-based and computer-based instruction. All institutions of higher learning should make full use of multimedia and network technology and adopt new teaching modes to improve the original single classroom teaching mode which is mainly based on teachers' lectures. The new teaching mode should be supported by modern information technology, especially network technology, so that English teaching is not limited by time and place, and develops in the direction of personalized learning and independent learning. The new teaching mode should embody the principle of combining practicality, knowledge and fun in English teaching, and should fully mobilize the enthusiasm of both teachers and students, especially to establish the main position of students in the teaching process. The new teaching mode should reflect interactivity, realizability and ease of operation in terms of technology. In addition, while fully utilizing modern information technology, the new teaching mode should also fully consider and reasonably inherit the excellent parts of the existing teaching mode.

At present, universities and colleges of all levels and types are actively promoting the ideological education of professional courses, and realizing the synergistic effect of professional courses and general knowledge courses. Education administrators and teachers should completely change the traditional education and teaching concepts and effectively utilize the technological advantages of the new media era and build an integrated network technology platform for the teaching reform. As an important carrier connecting traditional classroom and informatization teaching, the network teaching platform can realize the popularization of high quality educational resources beyond time and space and across disciplines, and help realize the goal of ideological education. College English is a general course, which plays an indispensable role in the process of promoting the moral and ethical level of university students, but due to the large number of students, teachers' limited energy and other problems, college English fails to give full play to its strong disciplinary value and nurturing function. Through the construction of intelligent digital network teaching platform, the optimal allocation of teaching resources, the flexible application of teaching forms and the effective expansion of teaching content can be realized, thus making the combination of college English and ideological education more operable and feasible.

## **2. The Current Situation of College English Teaching**

In the practice of college English teaching, there are still some problems that need to be solved, which are mainly reflected in the following two aspects: firstly, many English teachers fail to dig deep into the ideological essence in the teaching materials, and the integration of ideological and moral education into the teaching of English teaching is deliberately hard and boring. Some teachers are stuck in the rigid teaching style, while some teachers do not combine the ideological education with the English language teaching naturally, which is obviously not conducive to the integration of moral and intellectual education. It is also difficult for students to resonate emotionally and ideologically, which hinders the enhancement of the teaching effect of college English courses. Secondly, the teaching mode of English teachers fails to follow the development of informationization in education. Many teachers still use the traditional teaching medium of “textbook + blackboard + PPT”, which leads to limited time and space for teacher-student interaction and unsatisfactory teaching effect. The overall media literacy and information skills of college English teachers are not high, which seriously restricts the effective integration of college English and ideological and moral education.

With the popularization of mobile Internet and intelligent terminal devices, college English teachers can give full play to the technological advantages of digital network teaching platform to promote and facilitate the students’ language learning and moral development. Teachers are expected to change the traditional way of teaching mode and make full use of the network teaching platform in/after class. An important sign of the success of the reform of the teaching mode is the formation of students’ personalized learning methods and the development of students’ independent learning ability. The new teaching mode should enable students to independently choose materials suitable for their own needs, make up for the shortcomings of traditional classroom restraints, and be able to record, understand and test students’ learning as well as the teacher’s teaching and counseling at any time, so as to urge students to study actively and to promote the rapid improvement of their language skills and moral and character development in English.

## **3. Digital Network Teaching Platform Promoting Ideological Education of College English**

With the development and popularization of information technology and mobile network, education informatization has become a trend and powerful way to accelerate education change, promote education development and improve education quality. As a product of the combination of the Internet and higher education, the rise of digital network teaching platform promotes the effective integration of college English and ideological education, and has important significance and functional value for realizing the connotative development of college English teaching.

### ***3.1 Pooling and sharing quality curriculum resources***

The resources in traditional English teaching are mainly textbooks, electronic courseware, teaching aids and the long-term accumulated working experience and knowledge of teachers, and the storage of teaching resources is also limited by time and space.<sup>[1]</sup> The digital network teaching platform can realize the synchronous dissemination and intelligent categorization of the ideological and moral content in college English courses, and the intelligent teaching cloud platform based on artificial intelligence and big data can realize the synchronous updating and optimized combination of information. The distributed storage and integrated storage of the intelligent teaching platform can preserve teaching materials and scientific research materials for a long time and safely, and can be continuously accumulated, continuously updated and shared by teachers, students and professional scholars. The smart teaching platform can also fully activate the subjective initiative and creativity of college students, so that students can really become participants, propagandists and practitioners, and disseminate and practice ideological and moral learning with English as the language tool.

### ***3.2 Building a three-dimensional teaching platform to expand the space for teacher-student interaction***

The digital network teaching platform integrates various functions such as curriculum design, resource pooling, interactive communication, process recording, data collection, etc., and builds a multifunctional three-dimensional and open teaching space for platform users. The digital network teaching platform can aggregate teaching activities and research activities, creating a multi-directional communication and interaction platform for teachers, students and industry elites and many other

subjects. Users of the platform can realize synchronous communication, interactive cooperation, file sharing through various activities designed on the network teaching platform, no matter it is teacher-student interaction, student-student interaction, or interaction between the platform users and platform resources, which breaks the time and space limitations of traditional teaching. The interactive network teaching platform with a good learning environment has an important role and value in promoting the interaction and communication among various subjects of teaching, creating a strong learning atmosphere, and enhancing the teaching effect of ideological and moral education in college English teaching.

### ***3.3 Dynamic recording of learning trajectories to improve the teaching evaluation system***

With the fundamental purpose of cultivating students' moral values, building a teaching evaluation system that integrates the concept of ideological and moral education is the inherent requirement for development of college English. The traditional teaching evaluation system emphasizes intellectual education but not moral education, which to a certain extent affects the in-depth integration of college English and ideological and moral education. The assessment of students' language knowledge and language ability can be obtained through multiple exams to obtain more accurate quantitative data, while it is difficult to carry out quantitative evaluation of ideological and emotional development, as well as moral and ethical cultivation. For the objective evaluation of students' implicit learning results such as emotions, attitudes and values, it is necessary to use formative evaluation that emphasizes the process and dynamic adjustment. The digital network teaching platform can make use of its own database and cloud computing functions to comprehensively analyze learners' learning behaviors, learning habits and learning attitudes by recording the number of visits, frequency of interactions, self-test scores, and the length of online learning. Teachers can make use of the digital network teaching platform to expand the course evaluation indexes and evaluation dimensions of college English, improve the evaluation system of college English teaching, and help realize the diversification of the evaluation content and evaluation subjects.

In a word, the digital network teaching platform, which is mainly characterized by interaction integration, information integration and management integration, promotes the transformation of college English teaching from one-way classroom teaching to multi-directional interaction, and empowers college English, promoting the integrated development of knowledge skills and character education.

## **4. The Construction of Digital Network Teaching Platform**

Teachers should deeply explore the elements of ethics, values and ideology in college English courses, explore a new mode of "online + offline" teaching, and utilize modern information technology to guide students' in-depth learning. First of all, based on the existing network teaching platform of the school, create a "cloud resource library" for the ideological education of college English course, which includes videos, web links, courseware, database, etc. related to the topic of ideological education; secondly, create a "cloud classroom" for the College English course, which can be utilized for the teaching of ethical values and ideology by means of screen casting, interaction, discussion and Q&A, intelligent warning, voting questionnaire, group report and other rich and vivid classroom organization forms, to help realize the effective integration of College English and ideological education; Finally, with the powerful data collection function of the network teaching platform, to build a "online + offline" evaluation system. By recording the number of visits, frequency of interaction, self-test scores, length of online learning, etc., it monitors the students' learning trajectory of studies, accurately manages the daily teaching, and improves the quality of ideological education of college English course.

### ***4.1 Creating a "Cloud Resource Bank" for Ideological Education in College English Courses***

Explore, develop and integrate the ideological education resources embedded in college English, create English teaching modules with the theme of ideology and ethics with the support of a digital network teaching platform, and build a rich and diversified network resource base for teaching ideology and ethics in college English courses. On the basis of integrating the ideological resources, teachers should analyze the elements of ideology and ethics contained in college English teaching, seek a point of convergence between the requirements of college English teaching and the language materials of ideological education, and embed the socialist core values and other teaching contents, and create five major teaching modules themed on civic identity, value concepts, current affairs news, traditional culture and moral cultivation. For instance, the module on values and concepts mainly selects and compiles

typical events such as the spirit of women's volleyball team and manned spaceflight, etc., deepening the students' value identity and ideological identity; the cultural literacy module mainly includes literary works of Confucius, Zhuangzi, Mencius and other historical celebrities, guiding students to learn the essence of the ideology of preaching benevolence, advocating justice, and seeking for the commonwealth of mankind; the moral cultivation module mainly selects vivid stories close to daily life, reflecting social, professional and family virtues, and cultivates students' professional character and behavioral habits of honesty and trustworthiness, love and dedication, and selfless devotion. The teaching resource library not only includes traditional teaching materials such as courseware, audio and video, but also elaborate micro-lesson videos, web links, interactive question banks and other teaching resources. The modularized teaching has reconstructed the curriculum content of college English, enhanced the nurturing function of college English, strengthened students' civic identity, developed their critical thinking ability, boosted their cultural self-confidence, and cultivated their moral sentiments while teaching language knowledge and language skills. Modular English teaching systematizes fragmented language materials, and the digital network teaching platform realizes the optimal allocation of ideological resources in the college English course and meets students' personalized learning needs.

#### ***4.2 Exploring the New Model of "Online + Offline" Teaching***

Blended teaching mode has emerged with the popularity of Internet. It is a blend of teaching theories, learning environments, learning modes, learning resources, learning evaluation with inclusiveness and openness, advocating the combination of online teaching and offline teaching, and the combination of traditional teaching technology media and modern teaching technology media.<sup>[2]</sup> In order to better realize the nurturing function of college English, English teachers should follow the pace of the times, introduce the "cloud classroom" into regular college English teaching, create a three-dimensional college English classroom, give full play to the advantages of online teaching, further strengthen teacher-student and student-student interaction, and build a new mode of teaching college English based on the network teaching platform. The new mode of teaching prompts students to gradually form moral values in the process of learning English knowledge. Teachers of college English should actively explore the hybrid mode of "online + offline" teaching. For online teaching, students are offered a wealth of teaching resources through the network teaching platform. Teachers can also guide students to participate in the construction of the teaching platform, give full play to the interactivity and timeliness of the network teaching platform, through the casting of screen interaction, questionnaires, Q&A, intelligent warning, voting questionnaires, group reports and other rich and vivid forms of classroom organization, opening up a new mode of multi-directional teaching of ideological education, and helping to realize the effective integration of college English and ideological education; for offline teaching, teachers make full use of a variety of teaching methods, such as project teaching, task-driven teaching, case study teaching, situational teaching, experiential teaching, etc., to strengthen the content of ideological education through a variety of teaching forms, such as group discussions, classroom reports, and workshops. In short, the new model of college English courses based on the network teaching platform makes ideological education more vivid, lively and infectious.

#### ***4.3 Creating a Smart Evaluation System***

With the fundamental purpose of "cultivating morality and nurturing people", the construction of college English courses' ideology education focuses on the value guidance for students while imparting course knowledge and cultivating disciplinary competence. On the basis of integrating the original evaluation standards of college English courses, with the help of the powerful data collection function of the online teaching platform, the evaluation indexes and evaluation dimensions of college English courses have been expanded to truly realize the diversification of evaluation contents and evaluation subjects. With the help of the smart digital teaching platform and the combination of formative and summative evaluations, the ability and effectiveness of students' English learning are considered in depth, and dimensions such as value concepts and moral sentiments are incorporated into the evaluation system, so as to realize scientific, humanistic, and comprehensive teaching evaluations. In addition to offline normalized teaching evaluation, teachers can collect massive data reflecting students' learning activity, learning hours and learning trajectories through the digital network teaching platform, establish students' e-learning archive bags, monitor and master students' ideological dynamics and emotional changes in real time, and vertically compare students' stage-by-stage learning achievements to realize the value-added evaluation of intellectual and moral education. The digital network teaching platform reflects the learners' dynamic learning process in a multi-dimensional way.<sup>[3]</sup> It extends the evaluation of course teaching and learning effects from a single evaluation dimension to multi-dimensional dimensions such

as correct worldview, values, outlook on life and moral sentiments. Meanwhile, the monthly and yearly summative evaluation is carried out on a regular basis to comprehensively examine students' English proficiency, value concepts and moral cultivation. In short, a scientific and reasonable teaching evaluation system has a positive guiding function, which largely determines the realization of the development goal of the integration of college English and ideological education.

## 5. Conclusion

College English teachers should make full use of the technical advantages of educational informatization, innovate the teaching mode and teaching methods of college English courses on ideology and ethics, give full play to the synergistic effect of the "first classroom" and the "second classroom", set up a network teaching platform for the integration of college English and ideological education, incorporate the digital network teaching platform into the normalized teaching of college English, build a multi-dimensional intelligent classroom, and enhance the nurturing function of college English.

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