

# Research on the Application of “Chinese Story” in College English Teaching from the Perspective of Multiliteracies

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**Abstract:** *The continuous development of educational technology makes it extremely urgent to cultivate students' multi-literacy ability. Under the background of international public opinion, spreading Chinese voice, carrying forward Chinese traditional culture and telling “Chinese story” are becoming increasingly necessary qualities for English learners. Based on the “Chinese story” as the breakthrough point, under the guidance of multiliteracies, this paper aims to explore the pluralistic college English teaching and to further improve and perfect the design of college English teaching. Finally, the basic procedures of college English teaching design based on the cultivation of multiliteracies and the integration of “Chinese story” are put forward in line with the development of the times.*

**Keywords:** *Multiliteracies; Chinese story; College English teaching*

## 1. Introduction

In the new era, people are no longer satisfied with acquiring knowledge through traditional printed words but through auditory, visual, gesture, space and other channels. The New London Group (1996) believes that traditional language-centered reading and writing Cognitive ability is no longer suitable for today's society, but should be converted to the direction of multi-literacy of media composed of more symbol systems, that is, from traditional literacy to modern multi-literacy<sup>[1]</sup>. Under the background of the epidemic, the abundant learning resources make students dazzled and unable to start. How to select useful information from the vast ocean of knowledge and transform it into one's own knowledge has become a major challenge for students. Therefore, cultivating students' multiple reading ability is the mission requirement of educational technology in the new era for college students<sup>[2]</sup>.

Based on the special circumstances caused by the epidemic, English teaching resources such as current events, such as the dynamic changes of the epidemic and the response measures of various countries, have become very important ideological and political elements in college English teaching. In the process of online teaching, students are more and more interested in English teaching resources such as “Chinese Stories”. With the improvement of the epidemic situation and the resumption of offline English teaching in colleges and universities, college English teaching will enter a new stage of development. Therefore, the value application exploration of incorporating “Chinese Story” English teaching resources into college English teaching as an important ideological and political element can not only enrich the theoretical guidance of college English teaching, but also demonstrate how to infiltrate ideological and political elements in college English teaching. It plays an important role in protecting, inheriting and carrying forward the patriotism of students, and at the same time, it helps to stimulate students' enthusiasm for English learning and realize its function of promoting learning in many aspects<sup>[3]</sup>. At the same time, in view of the epidemic, this paper will discuss how to better integrate the English teaching resources of “Chinese Story” into college English teaching through first-hand teaching experiments and other empirical research materials, so as to realize its functions of educating and promoting learning reasonably and efficiently. And further study the basic operating procedures and teaching experience of related teaching design.

Since the beginning of the spring semester in 2022, the epidemic situation in the whole province and even the whole country has been relatively severe. In the face of the new requirements for college English teaching put forward by epidemic prevention and control, the “College English II” research group has actively responded. The national, provincial, municipal, college and hospital requirements for disease control at all levels require online teaching through the Internet during the epidemic to

ensure a safe and orderly development of teaching activities. The research group started comprehensive online teaching on March 18, 2022. After continuous exploration, a set of “36175” teaching method was gradually formed, that is, “three modules of the multi-reading teaching model, six aspects of pre-class preparation, one task before class, seven links in class, and five parts after class”, to ensure the smooth progress of college English teaching. The specific methods are as follows:

## 2. Teaching methods

“Multiple literacy ability” refers to the ability of learners to critically read and understand information through language, vision, hearing and other multi-modal forms based on their previous knowledge and experience, creatively using information and communication technology. With the continuous development and innovation of educational technology, the necessity of cultivating students’ multiple literacy skills has become more and more obvious since the spring semester of 2020<sup>[4]</sup>. This course adopts the teaching mode of multiple reading and reading, and mobilizes the students’ reading and expression vitality in English listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation from the three modules, allowing students to immerse themselves in the English learning environment, and naturally acquire college English listening, speaking, reading, writing, translating and other basic skills. In the first module, on the basis of using the BB platform to establish the on-campus course resource database, the research group uses modern information tools such as QQ groups to reorganize the course content, and conducts live teaching through QQ group classrooms and QQ voice calls. In the second module, in the process of reserving excellent English teaching database resources, this research group takes the dissemination of “Chinese story” as the central idea, fully combines the Winter Olympics, anti-epidemic and other current affairs materials as supplementary resources, and supplements the research group’s work in The Wisdom Tree platform has launched 2 excellent online courses as extracurricular resources. In the third module, the research team collected various English competition information, such as the National College English Contest, the Foreign Teachers Club Word Master Cup National College English Vocabulary Competence, the Correction Net Cup National College English Vocabulary Contest, and the National College English Grammar Contest, comprehensively organize students to actively participate in the competition, supplemented by meticulous pre-competition counseling, to promote learning through competition, in order to improve students’ comprehensive English quality.

## 3. Teaching themes

“College English II” is a limited elective course for second-year non-English majors. The “21st Century College English S Version Comprehensive Course 2” published by Fudan University Press is used as the basic teaching material. The platform launched two excellent courses “English Magic ‘Fa’” and “English Golden Song ‘New’ Award (1)”, and introduced excellent English version of “Chinese Story” material as ideological and political elements, aiming to improve students’ abilities, and promote students to further clarify the value and significance of English learning to the country and individuals.

Although some students have weak English foundation, they all have a patriotic heart. The introduction of excellent English current affairs materials into the classroom can not only create enough freshness and attention for college English teaching, improve students’ interest in learning, cultivate students’ multiple reading abilities in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and translation, but also attract more students to respond “The call to spread the voice of China in the world’s language” makes a certain contribution to the spread of the “voice” of China and enhances the patriotism of students<sup>[5]</sup>.

## 4. Ideological and political elements

This research group carefully analyzes the current situation and problems of college English online teaching, and then introduces “Chinese story” as ideological and political elements, explores the value of “Chinese story” in college English online teaching, and further summarizes the “Chinese story”. The specific operation methods and teaching experience of college English online teaching are introduced as ideological and political elements.

The first unit, Time Management, mainly discusses the necessity of time management and how to carry out effective time management. The ideological and political elements are to guide students to learn to manage time and arrange their own study, life and entertainment reasonably. Especially during

the epidemic, students take more online courses, and their learning self-discipline needs to be improved. Teachers should properly infiltrate how to balance the time relationship between study and leisure in the classroom. The Olympic champion Gu Ailing, who trains diligently, does not waste a minute and a second of training time, and can combine work and rest can be shared with the students as a case of “Chinese story”.

The second unit, Inspirations, illustrates the important impact of a positive and friendly attitude on human development with three cases between teachers and students, and between students and students. Ideological and political elements are to guide students to develop self-confidence, properly handle relationships with parents, teachers, classmates and friends, and learn to treat others with an encouraging and positive attitude. Taking into account the current affairs of the epidemic, teachers should guide students to have goodwill towards patients who are unfortunately infected with the new coronary pneumonia, and give them humanistic care, so that they can feel the warmth from the society, and they cannot be excluded because of the disease. In addition, the great Chinese philosopher, thinker and educator Confucius’s many stories of “teaching people according to their aptitude” can be shared with students. For details, please refer to a series of “Chinese Style” English graded reading books published by the Mingshi Institute of International Education.

The third unit, Tackling Problems, focuses on how to resolve complaints and problems. The ideological and political elements are to guide students to not be afraid of difficulties and have the courage to solve problems and troubles. At the end of December 2019, the new crown pneumonia epidemic came like a storm. In the past three years, the Chinese nation has not been overthrown. Soldiers, doctors, workers, community grid workers, sanitation workers, and other staff from all walks of life have performed their duties and been loyal to their duties, and started to respond to the big test of the epidemic. Contemporary college students should learn this excellent quality, actively learn from their volunteers, and contribute their own light and heat to the country and society. The positive deeds of all Chinese protest heroes can be used as excellent English-language sharing material.

The fourth unit, Conquering Illnesses, tells the story of three unfortunate patients with physical problems who bravely overcome their illnesses with the help of family members, friends and doctors. Ideological and political elements are to guide students to face the misfortunes of life bravely. Through the stories of the unfortunate patients who were unfortunately infected with the new coronary pneumonia, they were stubbornly fighting against the virus to inspire students to be brave enough to face the challenges of life, overcome difficulties and obstacles, and achieve a wonderful life. There must be the words of “life abuses me a thousand times, I treat her like my first love” courage and determination. Coinciding with the successful hosting of the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in China, the perseverance of the Olympians overcoming injuries and gritting their teeth to the last moment can also serve as a model for inspiring students to work hard.

The fifth unit, Medical Emergency, tells students the necessity and importance of first aid measures and how to master basic first aid methods through a series of short stories. Ideological and political elements are to guide students to learn first aid measures, to respond tactfully to emergencies in life, and to save lives at critical moments. By sharing different cases, guide students to learn the necessity of mastering first aid skills. Especially in the face of this sudden epidemic, public health services and related industries have made great efforts, and all kinds of volunteers are urgently needed. If college students have basic first aid knowledge, they can not only save themselves in such emergency, but also better serve the society and contribute to the country.

The sixth unit, Career, emphasizes the importance of choosing a career by analyzing the different characteristics of the six personality types, and at the same time guides students to make a balance between part-time work and study. The ideological and political elements guide students to reasonably analyze their own personality characteristics, form a correct view of career selection, and prepare in advance for entering the workplace in the future and choosing a job that suits them. It is possible to have a part-time job during the university period to gather certain experience and contacts, but it is necessary to balance the relationship between the part-time job and academics reasonably. Teachers can guide students to analyze different professional characteristics and required professional qualities through different professional cases such as entrepreneurs, doctors, teachers, soldiers, designers, and craftsmen.

The seventh unit, Interpersonal Relationships, analyzes the meaning and precautions of “criticism” from multiple perspectives. The ideological and political elements are to guide students to deal with interpersonal relationships reasonably and learn how to correctly view the “criticism” of others and properly “criticize” others. At the same time, learn how to get along and cooperate normally with

people who are difficult to get along with. When faced with criticism from teachers and classmates, students should take a correct view, carefully analyze their own problems, and correct their shortcomings. If there is a disagreement with the criticism, you can express your point of view in an orderly manner. Guide students to actively pay attention to current affairs news, criticize and refute the untruthful remarks against China in the world during the epidemic, and return China's innocence.

The eighth unit, Sales, mainly describes the basic qualities and certain sales skills that a qualified salesperson should have. Ideological and political elements are to guide students to view "sales" correctly, learn to discover their own advantages, and cultivate their "sales" ability, not only to be a salesperson, but to show their abilities and advantages to classmates, teachers, parents and students. Boss, bravely "sell" your shining point out. To guide students to develop a sense of a great country, they must actively stand from the perspective of the country and think about how to show Chinese excellent traditional culture to the world, so that the world can understand the real China.

## **5. Teaching process**

The teaching process is strictly in accordance with the teaching progress plan.

### ***5.1. Preparation before class starts***

Preparation before the course is a crucial link to ensure the smooth development of the course. First, use the BB platform to establish an on-campus course resource database before the class starts, and upload the teaching materials in advance. Second, in order to facilitate communication with students, the research group has established three types of QQ groups, namely class groups, data sharing groups and competition counseling groups. Third, collect excellent "Chinese Story" as reserve resources. Fourth, share two excellent online courses launched on the Wisdom Tree platform with the class group as supplementary resources. Fifth, publish the group task division and curriculum arrangement under the multi-literacy teaching mode to each class group in advance, so that the later classroom activities can be carried out in an orderly manner and the multi-literacy teaching mode can be smoothly carried out. Sixth, collect information on a variety of English competitions, and analyze each of them in detail in order to fully organize students to actively participate in the competitions.

### ***5.2. Before class***

According to the teaching plan, combined with the teaching content, complete teaching design, teaching courseware, teaching video. Publish learning tasks and homework content to students in advance on the BB platform.

### ***5.3. During class***

It adopts a combination of QQ group classroom and QQ voice call live broadcast, online self-study and offline Q&A. It is mainly divided into seven parts. First, online check-in, QQ voice call can visually see the number of online classes and the list of students who are not online. Second, for basic knowledge points, organize students to consult the materials on their own according to the arrangement of the group task division table, and share the knowledge points with everyone in the classroom. Third, for the comprehension part of the article, through live broadcast of QQ voice calls, students are guided to gradually enter the learning state and dig deeper into the connotation of the article. Fourth, for the reading training part, supply exercises through recorded teaching videos, and randomly select students to explain the ideas of the questions, so as to firmly grasp the students' attention. Fifth, for the translation part, students are arranged to analyze important knowledge points according to the task list of the group task division table. Sixth, for the extracurricular expansion part, combined with the Winter Olympics, the epidemic and other issues that students are concerned about, provide excellent English learning materials for "Chinese story", integrate the curriculum with ideology and politics, and provide students with input into the Chinese people's excellent characteristics. Seventh, make full use of modern information tools such as QQ groups for classroom interaction during class.

### ***5.4. After class***

The after-school link is mainly composed of five parts: First, arrange students to watch the two excellent online course resources shared by the Wisdom Tree platform to broaden students' horizons

and increase their knowledge. Second, different types and different levels of English competition tutoring will carry out point-to-point guidance in an orderly manner according to the chronological order of the competition. Third, the students who act as judges submit the scores and comments for the students who have shared tasks during the class. Fourth, students can communicate with teachers through QQ groups for questions. Fifth, after each learning task is completed, its related homework can be submitted through the BB platform or email.

### **5.5 Teaching effect**

Judging from the teaching situation, the first two classes of online teaching are in the exploratory stage, but because there has been online teaching experience for a period of time in the spring semester of 2020, and the university has carefully prepared the online teaching experience guidance exchange meeting. Since the second week, the formal process of class has been basically formed. The teaching content and teaching method have been cooperated and recognized by the vast majority of students. The overall attendance rate of the students is high, and the class is actively answering questions. Most students take notes carefully and submit homework on time. Student class interaction and student homework completion are on track. After the start of offline teaching, students' participation in the classroom has increased significantly, and the communication with teachers after class has increased day by day, and the relationship between teachers and students has become more harmonious. The analysis of unit test scores shows that in the special stage of epidemic prevention and control, compared with the past, students' performance has not only not regressed, but has made gratifying progress.

## **6. Teaching summary and reflection**

In the face of the severe challenges brought by the epidemic to the normal teaching order of schools, combined with the ideological and political requirements of the curriculum, the research team introduced "Chinese Story" as an ideological and political element into the teaching of College English II. With the recognition of students, the teaching effect is initially remarkable. Accordingly, the summary reflection is as follows:

Adjust the teaching mode of multi-literacy. Change the teaching style and the indoctrination style to the discovery style, the cooperation style and the discussion style. Change the single mode of language to multi-modal such as language, action, audio, video, etc. Increase teaching evaluation methods and develop towards diversified formative evaluation.

Choose a "Chinese Story" that fits your teaching. There are a large number and variety of "Chinese stories", and the specific reference is as follows: The content of the story serves for teaching. The number of stories serves for teaching. The story values serve students. The connotation of the story serves students.

Prepare for diversified teaching platforms and rich and colorful teaching contents. The blended teaching mode should be student-centered, make full use of multimedia resources such as computer networks, and change from one-way knowledge dissemination by teachers to multi-directional information dissemination.

## **7. Conclusion**

All in all, college English teaching during the epidemic is a huge challenge for both teachers and students. Teachers should not only complete the established teaching tasks, but also consider the psychological conditions of students, so as to be targeted. Therefore, how to make use of English teaching resources of "China Story", infiltrate ideological and political elements, stimulate students' interaction, and respond to teaching tests, etc., the ways and measures to improve the quality of college English teaching and to achieve the perfect link between online and offline teaching are topics that every teacher should study in depth.

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