

# The Exploration of English Audio-Visual Speaking Courses Reform in Qinghai Preparatory Education under the Background of Ideological and Political Dimension

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**Abstract:** *The audio-visual and oral English class of the preparatory course for ethnic minorities in Qinghai universities has effectively integrated such ideological and political elements as "four matters of confidence", "community of shared future for mankind", so as to make sure that the spring breeze turns into rain and there is no trace of ideological and political elements. On the one hand, it imparts knowledge and learning skills. On the other hand, it accomplishes the objectives of Ideological and political education and cultivates ethnic minority builders and successors with both political integrity and ability. According to the "BOPPPS teaching mode", the teaching implementation plan is designed from six dimensions, and the topic of "poverty eradication" is carried out in detail to strengthen students' confidence. Guide students of all ethnic groups to establish the common concept of sharing weal and woe, destiny, and deeply understand to strengthen the consciousness of building the Chinese national community.*

**Keywords:** *English Audio-Visual Speaking, Ideological and Political Elements, BOPPPS teaching mode*

## 1. Introduction

Education is the foundation of developing a country, which cannot be too strongly emphasized. It not only reflects the improvement of national quality, but also has a bearing on the prosperity of Chinese education. The impact of education involves the economy, society, culture and personal growth, which influence each other and promote each other. The Central Committee of the CPC, has been attaching great importance to the ideological and political construction of universities since the 18th Party Congress. The College of Preparatory Education of Qinghai Minzu University is responsible for the training of minority students in three universities in Qinghai Province (Qinghai University, Qinghai Normal University and Qinghai Minzu University), which is named Qinghai University Preparatory Training Base. More than 1,200 minority students are enrolled each year, such as Tibetan, Hui, Salar, Mongolian and Tu ethnic groups. For this group of students, the study of teaching English courses in matriculation in the context of curriculum thinking will have far-reaching implications for ethnic education. As the first stop of university education, matriculation is responsible for cultivating minority cadres with political identity, national awareness, cultural confidence and excellent personality in Qinghai province.

The English audio-visual course is an important part of English language teaching, which emphasizes the development of listening and speaking skills. The course integrates instruction in English learning strategies with English language skills training, education in cross-cultural awareness and focuses on students' learning experiences with independent, cooperative and blended learning. It enables learners to effectively improve their listening skills, oral expression and vocabulary. The English Listening and Speaking Smart Teaching System is used to systematically learn the English audio-visual course using a technical language lab and modern teaching tools. We provide visual input in real-life contexts and output in the process of accumulating practice.

## 2. Literature Review

The search topic was set as "Curriculum thought and Politics + English Listening" in CNKI. Sixty

theses were retrieved and sorted, the research results were excluded from Business English, Medical English, Maritime English, Tourism English, Higher Vocational English and Postgraduate Public English, which did not fit into this research area and were not relevant to this study. The research themes were divided into three perspectives: teaching practice research exploration (Li Jiatong 2021; Weng Yiqin 2022; Liao Li 2022) construction path research (Hu Xiaomin 2021; Kang Jingwen 2021) Curriculum thought and political elements integration research (Huang Li 2021; Zhu Xiaohan 2020). They are mainly the results of provincial and university-level funds and projects or above.

There have been studies implementing the importance of teaching Curriculum thought and politics of English audio-visual courses. However, most of them stay at the theoretical level of elaboration and do not practically address the aspects of teaching design, teaching implementation and feedback of results<sup>[1]</sup>. In response to these shortcomings, this paper will answer two questions: how to extract the thinking and politics elements in the audio-visual English course; and how to teach a good English audio-visual course for ethnic minorities in Qinghai's universities. The author attempts to provide answers by relying on the general context of curriculum thinking and politics. By studying the Interactive English Listening and Speaking Course, the article systematically organizes the Curriculum and Political elements in the textbook, hoping to make a modest contribution to the teaching of English to ethnic minorities in Qinghai universities in the preparatory stage.

### 3. Digging the ideological and political elements

Table 1: Elements of Four Matters of Confidence

Chapter	Contents	Ideological and political elements	Values
Famous People	Tu Youyou is best known for discovering artemisinin to treat malaria.	Tu Youyou was recommended for the Medal of the Republic nomination.	"This is not only a personal honour, but also a recognition of Chinese scientists by the international community." To adhere to confidence in theories means to adhere to the supremacy of the collective interest, to keep abreast of the times and to be innovative. Students in general should not fall into depravity or impatience, and climb to the peak of science.
Cultures and Customs	Dragon Boat Festival	Sticky riced dumpling and Qu Yuan	Chinese traditional festivals are rich in content and diverse in form, and are an important part of Chinese civilisation, playing an important role in passing on Chinese civilisation for thousands of years. Traditional festivals are precious "materials" for students to enhance their sense of honour and shame and to build up their ideals and beliefs. Cultural confidence is the key to the heritage of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics.
	Mid-autumn Festival	Moon cake and reunion	
	Lantern Festival	Glue pudding and festival lantern	
	Tomb-sweeping Day or Pure Brightness Day	Ancestors worship and sweep graves	
	Double Seventh Festival	Lovers and good wish	
Language	Why is Chinese getting more and more popular?	China's international status	confidence in path is the Chinese nation's recognition of the superiority of the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, as well as a guarantee of the happiness of the Chinese people.
Social Problems	Governments at all levels are trying hard to do away with poverty.	Poverty eradication	Concentrate efforts to do great things and be confident in the system of Chinese socialism. Winning the battle against poverty is a matter of raising the country's strength to solve the problems

The English Listening and Speaking Course for Preparatory students is the entire two volumes of the "Interactive English Listening and Speaking Course" published by the People's Press. The upper volume is used by Min Kao Min students and the lower volume is used by Min kao Han students. The materials used cover a wide range of content, with 24 different topics. The content takes full account of the students' English level, emotional characteristics and cognitive ability, yet the selection of material

focuses on being realistic, interesting and knowledgeable. Each unit contains six listening exercises, with a variety of question types and innovative formats whose emphasis is on training students' note-taking skills, developing their ability to capture key information and summarize the main idea through the recording of key words or phrases. The textbook also follows the principle of parallelism between listening and speaking, as "speaking to promote listening and vice versa". In order to make the penetration of the thinking and political elements systematically and completely, which are developed from three perspectives: "Four Confidence", "Community of Human Destiny" and "Independent Innovation in Science and Technology". (As shown in Tables 1 and 2)

*Table 2: Elements of Community of shared future for mankind*

Chapter	Contents	Ideological and political elements	Values
Accidents and Disasters	Man will be faced with more natural disasters if global warming is not taken seriously.	Global Warming	Recognition of the proposal "to create a community of shared future for mankind." Building an ecological civilization and a better planet" to promote the harmonious coexistence of human beings and nature." We have only one Earth" "The Earth is our common home".
Environment	If we don't save water, the last drop of water will be the tear of mankind.	Resource wasting	
Business	"One Belt, One Road" will serve to open up markets for China as well countries along.	One Belt, One Road	Recognition of the New Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. It is the path of win-win collaboration to promote common development and shared prosperity, and the path of equality and friendship to deepen understanding and trust and enhance extensive communication.
Happiness and Sadness	All that war brought nothing but sadness and misery and tragedy.	War	Recognition of national consciousness. Our country loves peace and does not advocate war. Epidemics, terrorist attacks and conflicts are issues of human survival and security, regardless of nationality, ethnicity or creed, and humanity is already in the same community of destiny.

### **3.1 Four matters of confidence**

From a vertical perspective, the "four matters of confidence" stem from the vicissitudes of our nation's history. Horizontally, it stems from the comparison of countries around the world. The successive realization of the Chinese dream relies on the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which is unashamedly comparable to other countries in the world [2]. The theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics has enabled our people to cross the canyon of history smoothly, completing a bend in the road from a backward nation and receiving global attention. There are no two identical leaves in the world, nor are there identical political systems. While Western societies are caught in a vicious cycle of party strife, the Chinese system is able to reconcile all parties and focus on doing great things. The root of the three aforementioned self-confidences is confidence in its culture. We are confident because Chinese civilization has lasted for 5,000 years and has been passed down to this day.

### **3.2 Community of shared future for mankind**

China's proposal to "build a community of shared future for mankind" is about the future of human destiny. It not only charts the future direction of human development, but also carries the hope of a better future for mankind. Everyone in the global village is connected, and being in this world requires attention to local issues, global issues and cross-cultural issues. This is why the study of foreign languages is quite important. The English curriculum needs to build a platform from a sense of "community" and focus on developing students' intercultural communication and empathy skills.

## **4. BOPPPS Teaching mode and its application in the teaching process**

The BOPPPS teaching model is a scientific and complete framework created by Douglas Kerr in 1976. BOPPPS divides the teaching and learning process into six stages: Bridge-in; Objective;

Pre-assessment; Participatory Learning; Post-assessment and Summary<sup>[3]</sup>.

#### **4.1 Bridge-in**

This unit focuses on "social issues", with pre-determined questions and brainstorming sessions to build a mind map before listening. In contemporary times, the most prominent social problems are: population, ecology and environment, wealth gap, labour and employment, ageing, etc. Afterwards, introduce the key vocabulary: environment, poverty, power abuse, anti-drug campaigns. The teacher gives the lines of poetry. The effective introduction before listening is to clear the way for perceiving the language and to develop students' ability to make predictions.

#### **4.2 Objective**

The English Hearing and Writing curriculum standards best reflect the comprehensive application of language skills. The four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are used to perceive cultural differences and to explore knowledge, learn skills, develop emotions and form correct values with interest as the starting point<sup>[4]</sup>. This section requires students to understand and master key vocabulary such as: the rich, the poor, the gap, shake off, poverty, emergency, donate, eliminate, government relief. The oral component focuses on the development of English note-taking skills, allowing them to improve their oral expressions by learning to predict relevant language and to correctly grasp the main idea from the listening sentences. Through effective learning strategies, they will also learn to communicate in English. Finally, the development of emotional and attitudinal values is an important link with the curriculum. In this part, the listening material "Governments at all levels are trying hard to do away with poverty." is used as the entry point for the course's thinking and politics, which fully reflects the confidence in the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

#### **4.3 Pre-assessment**

Ausubel once said: "The most important factor influencing learning is what students already know, and teachers should teach according to their prior knowledge". This is similar to the "i+1" proposed by Krashen. The "i" represents the learner's current level of language knowledge, while the "1" represents the gap between the learner's current cognitive state and the next stage of competence. This requires that the teacher's effective input is neither far above nor equal to the learner's existing level<sup>[5]</sup>. It is therefore important to know the learners' level of knowledge of the 'i'. In this section, the teacher sets up questions for students to discuss in order to find out their vocabulary and level of oral performance in relation to the word 'poverty' from their answers. "Which countries in the world are still on the edge of poverty?" "Could you give an example of the gap between the rich and the poor?"

#### **4.4 Participatory Learning**

In the process of listening and speaking in English, the principle of parallel listening and speaking is emphasized: speaking promotes listening and listening goes hand in hand. The two questions above are used as material for students to practise speaking. Through effective interaction, students' interest is stimulated and they remain active and engaged, which also lays the foundation for successful listening practice. Throughout the interaction, students use their mouths (to communicate orally), their hands (to practise shorthand and spelling skills) and their minds (to think about topical issues). The teacher needs to control the level of difficulty of the listening material, adjust the number of times it is played and provide analysis of the difficulties<sup>[6]</sup>.

#### **4.5 Post-assessment**

In an English audio-visual course, the main pathway for students to acquire knowledge is 'Listening', which requires a relatively high level of memory for listening to textual material. The majority of students are in the perceptual memory stage, and when they are stimulated by information, they have a transient memory that is often short-lived and is quickly forgotten after the information has been acquired<sup>[7]</sup>. This is the reason why students complain that they remember the answers when listening to the material, but cannot recall anything when doing the questions. Some students can achieve short-term memory, where the brain processes the information into working memory based on perceptual memory to cope with the exam, but they also forget it after the exam. Only a small number of students have completed the transformation of their long-term memory to the point where they can

never forget and are able to extract information whenever and wherever they want. Therefore, two conditions must be fulfilled in order to get the learning effect in English listening practice. Firstly, the intensity of extraction should be increased, which means that the listening text needs to be repeated several times for intensive listening. Secondly, the output should be greater than the input, i.e. speaking to promote listening.

#### 4.6 Summary

The listening and speaking exercises in this English listening and auditioning session are closely integrated and complement each other. The listening exercises are designed to be flexible, i.e. to capture the main idea and emotional attitude of the listening content, as well as to capture details. Question types include subjective questions such as dictation, fill-in-the-blank, outline writing, summary, overview and quiz, as well as objective questions such as choice, correctness and collocation. The exercises are designed with subjective questions in mind, with the aim of improving students' ability to use language. On the other hand, the inclusion of the Civics element in the audio-visual course not only enables the minority students to develop political identity, national awareness, cultural confidence and good character, but also builds a firm sense of Chinese national community.

#### 5. Conclusion

In summary, the study of the English audio-visual course not only provides ideas for the implementation of the English listening and speaking course, but also plays a positive role in promoting the development of the training base in Qinghai Province. The English audio-visual classroom in the preparatory department effectively integrates the "four self-confidence", "community of human destiny" and "independent innovation in science and technology" into the thinking and political elements, which can effectively make the spring breeze turn into rain. On the one hand, it imparted knowledge and skills, and on the other hand, it fulfilled the objectives of thinking and political education and trained qualified talents of ethnic minorities. In addition, the article integrates the concept of "curriculum thinking and politics" into the "BOPPPS teaching model" and designs the teaching implementation plan from six dimensions, and focuses on the topic of "poverty eradication" in detail. The article also focuses on the topic of "Poverty Eradication", and reinforces students' confidence in the road, theory, system and culture. Students will be guided to develop a common philosophy of solidarity, honour and disgrace, life and death, and destiny, and a deep understanding of the need to build a sense of community among the Chinese nation.

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