

Influence of Memorizing Magnificent English Articles on the English Writing Skills----Take P Campus of J University as an Example

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ABSTRACT. *This paper describes a designed and monitored program of reciting magnificent English articles for English majors freshmen. The results of pretest and posttest proved that the program improve the students' English writing level effectively. Based on this, it summed up the positive effects of memorizing magnificent English articles on English writing ability and corresponding teaching strategies.*

KEYWORDS: *Reciting magnificent articles, English writing ability, Learning and teaching strategies*

1. Introduction

As the most widely used language, learning English has attracted an increasing attention from Chinese students. However, in the process of learning English, advanced English learners often confront many obstacles, such as: English composition scores are lower than other aspects in English tests, and English writing skills cannot be easily improved compared with reading and listening. How to improve writing skills?

2. Literature Review

Krashen(1982), a linguistics teacher at the university of California, put forward the theory of Second Language Acquisition in the 1980s. Krashen pointed out that learning cannot be directly converted into acquisition. That is, native speakers can use the language fluently even though they do not know the rules of grammar, while language learners have a complete knowledge of grammar, but it is difficult to use it in practical communication.

Rod Ellis (1990) later discussed the relationship between natural language acquisition and second language acquisition. It is proved that formal classroom teaching can enhance learners' language input and improve their language awareness. The "learned" language is stored in the learner's brain. If the learner is given enough time and an appropriate occasion, in this case, the learner can convert "learned" into "acquired" through language output. Recitation input is an important way to strengthen language input. Through the accumulation of language information, students' language ability can be improved.

At the same time, Krashen's (1982) Affective Filter Hypothesis also holds that the "intake" of language can only be formed through the input of affective filter, which is the acquisition of language. According to Krashen (1985), "emotional filtering" is unconscious, caused by a lack of self-confidence or anxiety. The intensity of language learners' emotional filtering will vary from person to person, and the function of emotional filtering may hinder or accelerate language acquisition. Too strong emotional filtering will hinder learners' acquisition of language forms, and learners are often unable to freely use language forms in communication.

The formation of any kind of language ability is inseparable from the effective input and accumulation of language materials. Only with sufficient input can there be enough output. The tradition of recitation has a long history in China. Educators always regard recitation as a necessary learning way for learners. A large number of Chinese scholars also think that recitation plays a very important role in English learning through a lot of practical researches. Recitation input can improve students' sense of achievement. Recitation and effective input can overcome the anxiety of language learning. Recitation input can weaken the negative transfer of mother tongue. Recitation input can promote students' sense of language. Recitation input can enhance the accuracy and fluency of language expression. In addition, English recitation plays a great role in promoting English speech and oral expression, among which spoken voice, vocabulary and fluency are greatly improved.

Some studies have shown that in the primary stage of College English writing, the use of recitation teaching method worked as a guide to cultivate students' basic writing skills, in order to lay a foundation for writing better compositions, which is fully in line with the actual situation of students' English learning. It is necessary and feasible to use recitation to promote writing.

This paper makes a preliminary study on the application of reciting English in the second classroom of English majors. This study can provide a more effective method for the study of English majors, recommending the better English magnificent articles for reciting, and try to give teachers and learners some learning strategies and teaching strategies of English magnificent articles recitation.

3. Research Introduction

3.1 Research Objectives and Research Method

The purpose of this study is to test the effectiveness of reciting English magnificent articles on the writing ability of 2019 business English Major's in P campus of J University. After half a year's training on recitation of magnificent English articles (once a week, lasting for 12 weeks in total), it will take a post-test at the end of the semester to test the effectiveness of improving writing level, as to the vocabulary, grammar, sentence pattern and style. In addition, this study plans to interview the English teachers in this program, mainly to investigate whether magnificent articles recitation has a positive impact on the improvement of writing ability and the corresponding influencing factors.

3.2 Research Aims

Through this experiment, it aimed to help students transform from knowledge-based learning to skills based learning transformation. Today's English Teaching in our country is influenced by long-term exam oriented education. In the long run, students are always afraid of the inaccurate uses of vocabulary and scattered sentences. As time goes on, poor writing scores will produce a psychological resistance to English writing. Through this experimental study, students may overcome psychological obstacles and improve their writing self-confidence.

3.3 Research Process and Result Analysis

3.3.1 Experiment and Interview

In this experiment, 59 freshmen of business English major 2019 are tested on their writing level in Sep, 2019. The content of the test is based on the authentic composition test of CET4, and vocabulary, colocation and translation skills required to be mastered by students who are qualified to pass CET-4. The test results are as follows:

Table 1 Preliminary Test of Writing Ability of 59 Business English Majors in 2019

	Average Score	Average Score Rate
Writing	78.6	73.8%
Vocabulary	70.2	70.2%
Collection	69.4	69.4%
Translation	70.0	65.7%

After the initial test, the students were divided into groups for recitation training (once a week, lasting for 12 weeks in total). At the end of the semester, the second writing test was conducted for the training groups. The test content was CET4 composition test and again the vocabulary, collection, and translation required to be memorized by the students who are qualified to pass CET-4. The post test was designed to exam four aspects including the vocabulary, grammar, sentence pattern, and style in order to test the influence of magnificent articles recitation on writing ability. The results of the second test are as follows:

Table 2 Second Post-Test of Writing Level of 59 Business English Majors in 2019

	Average Score	Average Score Rate
Writing	92.3	86.7%
Vocabulary	83.5	83.5%
Collection	74.4	74.4%
Translation	93.1	87.4%

In addition, the second stage of the experiment is to interview five English teachers in J College. The comprehensive situation of the interview is as follows:

(1) Can magnificent articles recitation improve students' writing ability?

Answer: recitation of magnificent articles can really improve English writing ability, but not limited to English writing ability. It also has a certain positive impact on listening, speaking and reading in English ability. After the long-term training of recitation, students' English ability and writing score have been improved significantly.

(2) In addition to the training of Magnificent articles recitation, what other methods can improve English writing ability?

Answer: the accumulation of vocabulary and beautiful sentences can also improve English writing ability. Only with the vocabulary accumulation can we write complete English sentences. Adding some accumulated beautiful sentence patterns into the essay can help to compose a good article.

3.3.2 Result Analysis

From table 1, it can be seen that the score rate of the four items of 59 freshmen in 2019 is lower than middle level, which is neither too low out of the average score nor particularly high. It means students master basic words, sentence patterns and fixed collocations, but most of them are lack of brilliant points, and only 17 students have bright spots in their compositions. After 12 weeks of recitation training, the score rate of 59 freshmen has improved significantly, and the score rate has risen to the upper middle level. On the basis of mastering basic words, sentence patterns and fixed collocations, some trained students can reasonably and correctly use advanced words, complicated sentence patterns, etc. There are also many brilliant points in their compositions. It can be shown that after the training of recitation, the students' Comprehensive English ability has improved significantly, especially in English writing.

Taking the two results of the experiment and interviews into account, the students who have been trained for magnificent articles reciting have a higher writing score compared with before. In addition, their other English skills, ie. Listening, speaking and reading, have also been improved. It can be seen that the training of magnificent articles recitation has a positive effect on students' English learning, especially on students' writing ability. Within certain period, English learners can be trained by recitation, which can effectively improve their English level and make their English writing ability develop rapidly. Through recitation, learners can memorize a large number of English vocabularies and collocations.

Students carry out a lot of recitation repeatedly, memorizing the vocabulary and grammar knowledge in the text, consolidating the knowledge, understanding the deep meaning of the text, accumulating more English knowledge, and having a better English language output in daily life.

This experiment also collaborated with previous studies that recitation is the most effective way to learn language, and it is also an indispensable learning strategy for second language acquisition in Chinese language environment.

4. The Role of Recitation Input and Teaching Strategies

4.1 The Role of Recitation Input

4.1.1 Improving Students' Sense of Achievement

Students can improve their language knowledge reserve through magnificent articles recitation training. When students can recite long articles fluently, students' interest and confidence in English learning will be greatly improved. And when students use the content of recitation in writing and oral communication, they use the memorized articles accurately to obtain various forms of affirmation. Under such circumstances, students' sense of achievement in learning foreign languages will become stronger.

4.1.2 Overcoming Anxiety in English Learning

Learners often have anxiety when they cannot easily master a second foreign language during the learning process. Under the emotional influence, students cannot calm down and focus on learning English while studying. Then it will lead to a decline in students' English learning performance. As a result, a vicious circle of students' English learning has arisen. It can be known from the previous theoretical basis that it takes certain language accumulation and occasions to enable learners to switch from "learning" to "acquiring". However, the anxiety of learners usually causes the learners to develop psychological barriers to foreign language learning. Through Magnificent articles recitation training, students apply patterned language to English writing, thereby improving their English performance, and enabling students to better overcome the anxiety of English learning.

4.1.3 Weakening the Impact of Negative Transfer of Mother Tongue

In the second language acquisition theory, Selinker proposed the effect of language transfer on second foreign language learning. That is, in the second language learning, when the second language is used, the learner uses the pronunciation, meaning, and structure of the mother tongue rules or habits to express their thoughts. According to Selinker, there are five cognitive processes and causes related to second language acquisition: language transfer, training transfer, second language learning strategies, and second language communication strategies. Language transfer indicates that if the language rules of the mother tongue are consistent with the foreign language, then the rule transfer of the mother tongue will have a positive effect on the target language, which is called positive transfer. Negative transfer refers to the negative impact of foreign language learning if the language rules of the mother tongue do not conform to the habits of the foreign language. As we all know, Chinese and English are different language groups. Also, the emergence of Chinese-style English also reduces the speed of expression due to the translation process in the brain. Therefore, students will produce a large number of incorrect language errors in English writing and daily oral communication, which will affect the quality of language output. And through long-term training in recitation of magnificent articles texts, learners have certain concepts on how to correctly use sentences and fixed collocations. After using good articles and paragraphs many times, students can better consolidate their English knowledge. Through recitation input, students can inadvertently improve the use of correct expressions in speaking and writing to form a more authentic language output. Students naturally apply the correct forms in communication, reducing the impact of mother tongue on negative transfer.

4.2 Teaching Strategies

4.2.1 Selection of Recitation Materials

Before the training of recitation of magnificent articles, teachers must first select appropriate materials suitable for the students, and choose materials that are difficult enough for the trainees. At the same time, students are required to imitate the pronunciation and sentence segmentation of native speakers as much as possible when reciting, and it is best to be natural, authentic and reproducible. Therefore, the content of the material selection should be as close as possible to the direction of the students' interest, and it has a direct or indirect educational effect on the learning of the learners; all magnificent articles recitation materials should be equipped with listening recordings to correct the pronunciation inaccuracies that students appear during recitation quasi.

4.2.2 Principles of Recitation

Students should take a correct attitude towards magnificent articles recitation training. Trainees should be told the rules of the training program and be serious and persevering; magnificent articles recitation should be continuous, from little to more, from easy to difficult, targeting different students' primary English level, giving them specific and personalized recitation training.

4.2.3 Transformation of Learning

In the past, people thought that students' ability to learn English relied entirely on the teacher's individual ability. In traditional English teaching, teachers are the center of teaching. They paid attention to imparting knowledge to students, often neglected to allow students to come into contact with the language and practice the rules of language. After transferring the learning motive to the students, the teacher's "how to teach" responsibility is transferred to the students "how to learn". So students has more initiative to confront more authentic language input to improve students' English writing level.

4.2.4 Teachers Roles

To get the magnificent articles recitation training on the right track, the teaching guidance of English teachers and the learning participation of learners are essential, coupled with correct recitation strategies and appropriate methods. When students are just in contact with magnificent articles recitation training in the early stage, teachers should play a guiding role for students, informing students of the role of recitation in improving English ability, and, help to develop a recitation plan for students and put forward requirements and standards for recitation. After the students have memorized the article, the teacher should explain the purpose and structure of the article to the students to help the students better understand the meaning of the article. Finally, check the recitation of each student to ensure that the learners recite fluently. In order to better implement recitation training, teachers can establish a good teacher-student relationship with students, shorten the distance between students and teachers, encouraging students to recite, and demonstrate the model trainees to others. Teachers help to students can enhance students' self-confidence and eliminate anxiety in language learning.

5. Conclusion

There is an old saying in China: "Getting familiar with 300 Tang poems, you can chant without poetry." What is emphasized here is the importance of recitation in language learning. Since ancient times, recitation has been one of the main language teaching methods adopted by Chinese educators. Even if thousands of years have passed and teaching equipment is constantly updated, a large number of recitations training still have a good way to learn language.

In order to learn the foreign language successfully, there must be a large and rich accumulation of essay materials. Only after such accumulation reaches a certain level, can language learners takes input correctly and smoothly, and output the language. Magnificent articles recitation training can improve students' comprehensive ability of listening, speaking, reading and writing, especially in writing. It can significantly improve students' anxiety, overcome the negative transfer of mother tongue, and enable students to use language proficiently. Therefore, in English teaching, we should strengthen the use of magnificent articles recitation training to guide students to use the correct learning strategies to improve their learning ability.

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