

Study on Effective Ways to Develop Curriculum Ideological-political Education in Basic English in Higher Vocational Colleges

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Abstract: *Basic English is a compulsory course in higher vocational colleges and featured by its wide coverage, long span and lots of learning hours. This paper analyzes several problems in curriculum ideological-political education in basic English in higher vocational colleges: English teachers lack sense of ideological-political education, English teaching materials lack ideological-political education content and English teachers lack effective ways to carry out ideological-political education. Then, it puts forward several effective ways to carry out curriculum ideological-political education in basic English: English teachers should take initiative to assume responsibility of ideological-political education while imparting foreign language knowledge, constantly enhance curriculum ideological-political education consciousness, enrich English teaching materials ideological-political education content, and fully tap the content of English curriculum.*

Keywords: *basic English, higher vocational college, curriculum ideological-political education, ideological-political theory course*

1. Introduction

The National Ideological and Political Work Conference of Colleges and Universities put forward new requirements for ideological and political work of colleges and universities in the new era. In order to do a good job in students' ideological-political education, classroom teaching must be used as the main channel and all other courses should keep this channel work smoothly so that non-ideological-political and ideological-political theory courses go hand in hand and form synergies. Curriculum ideological-political education is not only a new subject facing non-ideological-political theory courses of colleges and universities in the new era, but also their historical mission. From development of ideological-political theory course to curriculum ideological-political education, the CPC Central Committee, with Xi Jinping as its core, attaches great importance to doing a good job in ideological-political education of colleges and universities in the new era, and also indicates basic trend of innovation and development of mode of curriculum ideological-political education in colleges and universities in the future^[1].

With its wide coverage, long span and lots of learning hours, basic English is one of the courses that college students are most vulnerable to foreign thoughts and cultural influences. English teachers in higher vocational colleges should take initiative to assume responsibility of curriculum ideological-political education while imparting foreign language knowledge, strive to achieve unity of knowledge transfer with moral education, firmly adhere to the main position of socialist ideology, actively and effectively promote curriculum ideological-political education in basic English classrooms, fully tap elements of ideological-political education and ideological-political theory course to form synergies, and truly integrate ideological-political education to build a comprehensive educational concept of constructing the educational pattern of "by all staff through the whole process and in all the courses".

2. The concept of curriculum ideological-political education is put forward

The concept of "Ideological-political Theories Teaching in All Courses" was put forward by the Shanghai Municipal Committee in 2014, which means "taking moral education as the fundamental task of education, deeply exploring educational resources of ideological-political element of various courses, so that all kinds of courses and ideological-political theory classes go hand in hand and form synergies

to build a comprehensive educational concept of constructing educational pattern of “by all staff through the whole process and in all the courses”, which emphasizes that in addition to knowledge transfer, professional curriculum also has ideological-political education functions^[2]. With the convening of the 2016 National Conference on Political Thought and Politics in Colleges and Universities and the publication of *The Outline for the Implementation of the Quality Improvement Project for The Quality of Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities*, the concept of curriculum ideological-political education has become more popular and has quickly become a hot topic of academic research and direction of efforts of various courses in colleges and universities.

3. The necessity of implementing curriculum ideological-political education in basic English in higher vocational colleges

3.1 The development of curriculum ideological-political education is the mission of the times given to colleges and universities in the new era

At the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities, Xi stressed that China has a unique history, culture and national conditions, which determines that China must follow its own path of development of higher education and do a solid job in socialist colleges and universities with Chinese characteristics^[3]. We should take moral education as the central link, constantly reform and innovate ideological-political work, and make it run through the whole process of education and teaching to realize the whole process of educating people. All kinds of courses, non-ideological-political theory classes and ideological-political theory classes, must go hand in hand and form synergies. On March 18, 2019, while chairing a symposium of teachers in school ideological-political theory, Xi once again stressed the need to improve curriculum system and solve the problem of interaction between various other courses and ideological-political theory courses. At present, there exist various kinds of ideological and cultural exchanges in the world, and under the conditions of reform and opening-up and the development of socialist market economy, ideology is more diverse and changeable, so the task of leading students of colleges and universities with the core socialist values is more arduous. The Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core continuously strengthens curriculum ideological-political education of college students under the new situation, carries out curriculum reform, promotes professional courses ideological-political education, which is the historical mission of the new era to colleges and universities non-ideological-political theory courses. English course, as the most closely related to foreign history and culture should not only bear the brunt, but should also be responsible for implementation of curriculum ideological-political education.

3.2 Lack the sense of curriculum ideological-political education

First of all, many English teachers higher vocational colleges lack sense of curriculum ideological-political education. There is a lack of understanding among higher vocational English teachers about importance of carrying out curriculum ideological-political education. In the past, English teachers attached more emphasis to students listening, speaking, reading, writing, translation and other language skills^[4]. Therefore, English teachers put too much emphasis on language knowledge and foreign culture and pay relatively little attention students' ideological-political education. Some higher vocational English teachers have a deviation in their understanding of responsibility of assuming curriculum ideological-political education. They think that ideological-political education is the work of ideological-political theory teachers and tutors, and their main responsibility is to teach language knowledge, which to a large extent, hinders effective expansion of channels and carriers of ideological-political education for college students.

3.3 English teaching materials lack ideological-political education content

In order to pursue the "original taste" of teaching materials, many colleges and universities prefer imported teaching materials in the selection of English teaching materials, and these purely imported teaching materials will naturally not involve ideological elements and content conducive to consolidation and development of socialist road, training qualified socialist builders and reliable successors. Meanwhile, there are various kinds of English courses and their content and quality are of different levels. Some colleges and universities have integrated ideological-political education content into their own self-edited teaching materials, but generally speaking, they are not quite systematic and

normative. Therefore, Chinese cultural elements are neglected and weakened at the source of the selection of English teaching materials in colleges and universities, the proportion of Chinese and western culture is seriously unbalanced. College students are too much influenced by western culture and ideology, which is not conducive to establishment and cultivation of socialist core values.

3.4 English teachers lack effective ways to carry out curriculum ideological-political education

Due to their educational background, English teachers are generally not strong in Marxist theory, political theory literacy and ideological-political education teaching skills, and ideological-political education is marginalized in English teaching. Many higher vocational English teachers often fail to tap ideological-political elements in English curriculum and capture the key link of ideological-political education in English teaching, resulting in lack of ideological-political education function in college English classrooms. Because the concept of ideological-political education is a relatively new concept and the research is far from sufficient. Higher vocational English teachers generally lack professional background and teaching experience to carry out ideological-political education, which leads to lack of flexibility and innovation in their teaching methods. Even if they have the consciousness of actively implementing curriculum ideological-political education, but the link between English teaching and ideological-political education is too far-fetched or too superficial. The classroom teaching is often featured by passive learning and lack of active students' participation. The effect of ideological-political education is not good enough to achieve the synergy effect that ideological-political education should have. In short, language is rooted in culture, and transmission of language can not be separated from spread of ideology and culture, resulting unavoidable ideological collision. How to put good political, cultural views and values in the process of English teaching is an urgent problem to be solved in basic English teaching.

4. Effective ways to carry out curriculum ideological-political education in basic English in higher vocational college

In June 2020, the Ministry of Education pointed out in *The Guidelines for the Construction of Curriculum Ideological and Political Education in Higher Education Institutions Notice* that curriculum ideological-political education in colleges and universities should be integrated into classroom teaching construction. As an important content of curriculum setting, syllabus and lesson plan evaluation, it should be implemented in all aspects of curriculum goal design, revision of teaching outline, selection of teaching materials and preparation of lesson plan. We should make good use of the key teaching materials of the Marxist theory, and promote to put contents of teaching materials into talent training plan, teaching plan courseware and examination. We should innovate classroom teaching mode, promote application of modern information technology in ideological-political teaching, stimulate students' interest in learning and guide students to think deeply. We should improve management of classroom teaching process, and upgrade the level of integrating the ideological-political connotation of the curriculum into classroom teaching^[5]. Teachers, teaching materials and teaching methods are the three main elements of implementing ideological-political education in basic English course. Teachers lead classroom teaching, the key to promote curriculum ideological-political education, teaching materials are the source of mining elements of ideological-political education to educate people, and teaching method is the way to implement curriculum ideological-political education. In order to improve teaching effect, we must train our teachers, prepare suitable teaching materials and employ effective teaching methods.

4.1 To enhance curriculum ideological-political education awareness of English teachers in colleges and universities

In order to improve curriculum ideological-political teaching ability of English teachers in higher vocational colleges to enhance ideological-political education function of English classrooms, curriculum ideological-political education awareness of English teachers need to be strengthened. There are many ways for English teachers to enhance their awareness of curriculum ideological-political education abilities, such as reading classic books written by Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping, browsing websites online, using Xuexiqiangguo, etc. They should take the initiative to strengthen the study of ideological-political education methodology, and consciously carry forward the core values of socialism in the classroom. In the classroom teaching, students need to be inspired to love China and embrace national pride so that ideological-political education truly finds a

place in college English teachers' ideological consciousness. They should maintain political determination at all times in the process of education, speak clearly about politics, publicize the Party's theories, lines, principles and policies, and consciously resist hostile western culture. Never will they make public anything in the classroom that harms the interests of the Party and the state or make statements that damage the image of the Party and the state. Never will they distort or vilify the history and culture of the Party and the state, glorify the western ideological and political system and social and cultural customs, worship the outside world, make a fool of themselves, change the teaching content at will in the name of teaching reform, and publicize western ideas.

4.2 Enrich content of curriculum ideological-political education in English teaching materials in higher vocational colleges

Lack of proper ideological-political education element is one of the main reasons that higher vocational college English classroom fail to live up to expectation of moral education. It is the absence of patriotism, ideal belief, Chinese culture and other ideological-political education element in college English curriculum requirements that leads to negligence of Chinese elements in English teaching materials. As the most important carrier in classroom teaching, teaching material is the guide for teachers' teaching and students' learning, and content and proportion of teaching materials are arranged correspondingly, which has a straightforward effect on teaching content and learning results. Therefore, in order to strengthen function of ideological-political education in college English classrooms, we must work hard to reform syllabus, strengthen construction of teaching materials, enrich teaching content, integrate ideas and elements of ideological-political education into teaching materials, highlight Chinese elements at the source, embody ideological-political leadership, cover theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, core values of socialism, excellent traditional Chinese culture and traditional Chinese virtues, and provide material support and value guidance for professional courses to promote curriculum ideological-political education. For example, you can select some passages on China's traditional culture and history in textbooks, or add discussion and debate topics about differences between Chinese and western cultures in students' after-school exercises.

4.3 To improve curriculum ideological-political teaching ability of English teachers in colleges and universities

College English teachers should continuously improve their ideological-political quality, which is a prerequisite for implementation of curriculum ideological-political education. Only when teachers master basic principles of Marxism and theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics can they firmly adhere to socialist ideological position, wholeheartedly support leadership of Communist Party of China, identify with socialist road, and love the Party's educational cause. They should also improve moral quality and humanistic literacy, actively practice standards of good teacher, and strive to become practitioners of socialist core values to spread advanced culture. Last but not least, they should also strengthen theoretical research of curriculum ideological-political education, constantly explore effective ways to carry out curriculum ideological-political education, excavate ideological-political elements in English teaching materials, innovate teaching methods of English classroom, improve their language ability, guide them to spread Chinese culture in English, tell Chinese stories well, and adhere to English curriculum political and academic rationality, value and knowledge.

5. Conclusion

In a word, we should carefully select teaching materials to guarantee ideological-political elements are naturally embedded so that students can not only acquire English skills but also moral education from English classroom teaching. Teachers are responsible for organizing learning and their own ideological-political awareness and quality are crucial to effective delivery of curriculum ideological-political education. Also, proper teaching methods should be scientifically designed to make students readily receive and absorb what is imparted. English course is quite different from other courses and is kind of "frontier course" in the sense that the teaching materials are directly exposed to western culture. English teachers should carefully guide students to understand western culture and make comparison between Chinese and western culture to deepen students' understanding of Chinese culture.

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