Analysis of Vocabulary Teaching in Tcfl Reading Class

Shuijing Hu

School of Humanities, Xi’an Shiyou University, Shaanxi 710065, China

ABSTRACT. To help students expand their vocabulary is one of the goals of Teaching Chinese as Foreign Language (hereinafter referred to as TCFL) reading class. However, some studies show that students' vocabulary learning in reading class is not ideal. This paper will analyze the problems of vocabulary teaching in TCFL from three aspects: the task and characteristics of vocabulary teaching, the existing problems and teaching methods.

KEYWORDS: Teaching chinese as foreign language (tcfl), Reading class, Vocabulary teaching

1. Introduction

As one of the three elements of language, vocabulary is the premise of language expression.\(^1\) With the development and transformation of the subject, the contents and methods of vocabulary teaching have become more detailed. As an indispensable part of classroom teaching, vocabulary teaching is scattered in all stages of Chinese as a second language teaching. Reading class is one of the important ways to expand students' vocabulary.

2. Tasks and Characteristics of Vocabulary Teaching in Reading Class

2.1 The Task of Vocabulary Teaching

In teaching Chinese as a foreign language, students are divided into different stages due to their different Chinese proficiency. They are generally divided into primary, intermediate and advanced level. Facing the students at different stages, the teaching contents and tasks of reading course are also different. For the students in the primary stage, due to the limited knowledge of Chinese, the reading class mainly focuses on the teaching of Chinese characters and vocabulary. Intermediate stage students have a certain foundation, with the preliminary reading ability. At this time, it can expand students' vocabulary, and increase sentence training. In addition to continuing vocabulary teaching and reading training, advanced students can also deepen the difficulty and increase some cultural knowledge.
Of course, for the vocabulary teaching in reading class, the tasks of students at different stages are also different. At the initial stage, vocabulary is relatively easy to understand. The main task of students is to master the pronunciation and shape of new words. At this stage, students should read more and practice more to understand the meaning of these basic words. In the advanced stage, especially in the advanced stage, the task of vocabulary teaching has changed greatly. The students in the advanced stage have mastered some basic vocabulary, and the main task of this period is to expand the vocabulary. In addition, students should be able to correctly and skillfully use the vocabulary they have learned and even communicate with each other.

2.2 Characteristics of Vocabulary Teaching

As a skill course, TCFL reading course aims to cultivate and improve students' reading ability. It does not take new words as the main teaching objective. Therefore, vocabulary teaching in reading class is different from that in comprehensive class. Comprehensive course usually takes intensive reading as the main content, while reading class mainly focuses on extensive reading. In general, when teaching vocabulary in a comprehensive course, the teacher's explanation will be more comprehensive. Teachers will focus on the pronunciation, shape and meaning of words. Reading class is different from comprehensive class. Vocabulary teaching in reading class is mainly to help students understand the meaning of the text. The explanation is relatively simple and has great randomness.

Although it is different from the vocabulary teaching of comprehensive course, the learning of vocabulary in reading class is also very important. It can help students understand the text better. For foreign students, vocabulary learning is not only the learning of language elements, but also the basis of comprehensive learning. As a teacher, we should have a certain plan before teaching. In terms of teaching content arrangement, we should focus on reading, focus on cultivating and improving students' reading ability, and do not occupy too much time to explain and explain vocabulary, thus affecting the normal reading training content.[2]

3. Problems in Vocabulary Teaching in Reading Class

3.1 Teachers' Improper Vocabulary Teaching Methods

Teachers' vocabulary teaching methods are very important in reading class. At present, the most commonly used teaching methods are “collocation of words”, “demonstration method” and “direct translation method”. But these methods also have some disadvantages. If they are not used properly, they will affect the accumulation of students' vocabulary and the improvement of their reading level.

Some teachers in vocabulary teaching, students will be asked to collocation and combination of words. Although this method can help students understand the meaning of words and remember words faster, there are still many problems. For
example, students can't use it properly.

For some key words, the teacher will take the method of demonstrating examples. The teacher first gives an example sentence, then asks the student to imitate. In this case, even if most students can make correct sentences, they are often isolated and have nothing to do with the reading content they have learned, so it may not have much effect on improving students' reading ability.

Direct translation may be a more relaxed and practical teaching method. In the teaching process, in order to better explain to students, teachers may speak some students' mother tongue or use medium language, such as English. But this method is limited in scope. It can be used in explaining nouns with single meaning. However, for words with more meanings, it is easy for students to not understand the meaning of words and how to use them.

3.2 Paying Less Attention to Vocabulary Teaching in Reading Class

The research on Chinese reading and vocabulary teaching began in the 1990s, which is a relatively new research field. In the 21st century, more attention has been paid to reading and vocabulary teaching. But in terms of curriculum design, the importance of reading class is still not enough, let alone the vocabulary teaching in reading class. Even in schools with reading classes, teachers may not pay enough attention to vocabulary teaching in reading classes. After all, there are comprehensive courses and other intensive reading courses.

In reading class, reading a large number of Chinese materials can not only cultivate students' reading skills, but also review old words and learn new words in reading, so as to expand students' vocabulary and improve their Chinese level. Therefore, in teaching Chinese as a foreign language, vocabulary teaching in Chinese reading class should be paid attention to. In the teaching of reading class, teachers should also play a role in vocabulary teaching, linking vocabulary teaching with reading. To a certain extent, it can deepen students' impression, help students understand quickly, and help students accumulate vocabulary.

4. Exploration of Vocabulary Teaching Methods in Reading Class

4.1 To Screen Vocabulary Content

As for the new words in the paper, the teacher should select and explain them selectively, aiming at expanding students' vocabulary and improving their reading skills.

In some reading texts, common words and unusual words will appear. Then the teacher should focus on explaining the frequently used words. For some not often used new words, teachers can do a simple explanation. If the students ask questions, teachers should make a targeted answer. Sometimes, words with strong word
formation ability will appear in the text. At this time, teachers should pay attention to summarizing the rules. This kind of words with strong word formation ability can help students to increase their vocabulary rapidly.

4.2 To Give Lexical Interpretation

Because of the different words, there are different ways to explain the words. For example, when learning new words, students have learned their synonyms or antonyms, then teachers can use the negative form of synonyms or antonyms to explain the meaning of words. This not only explains the new words, but also reviews what we have learned before.

It is also an intuitive, simple and interesting method to combine modern teaching methods with vocabulary teaching. Teachers can integrate the meaning of words with specific images and actions, which can give students strong visual stimulation and help deepen their memory.

Context approach is a method to explain the specific meaning of words through context. There are many kinds of Chinese vocabulary, so it is easy to have polysemy. Therefore, in different contexts, the meaning of words is also different. At this time, the teacher needs to explain the meaning of the word to the students according to the context. At the same time, in order to better understand learning, teachers should try to create different contexts. Through the practice in different contexts, students can quickly understand the meaning of words and correctly use words.

4.3 To Practise Vocabulary

Practice is an important part of vocabulary learning and an important way for students to master knowledge. Through the practice, we can strengthen students' understanding of vocabulary and consolidate what they have learned.

Teachers should play the main role of students in vocabulary practice and interact with students more. You can also practice vocabulary by asking students to explain. In this way, it can not only improve students' learning enthusiasm, but also let them get exercise, which is conducive to the improvement of their ability and make them truly become the main body of the classroom.

Teachers can also use games, word guessing and other methods. Single vocabulary learning will make students feel boring, thus reducing learning efficiency. Practicing vocabulary through games and word guessing will make the process of memorizing vocabulary more interesting. It can not only activate the classroom atmosphere, but also improve the students' interest in learning.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, reading can improve the repetition rate of vocabulary, help foreign
students deeply understand the specific meaning of words, and properly apply the
learned words to life, work and study. Vocabulary teaching in reading class is a form
of mutual improvement. Vocabulary learning helps students understand the text.
Reading articles are conducive to promoting vocabulary learning. As teachers of
Chinese as a foreign language, we should constantly explore the teaching methods
of vocabulary.

References

Anhui Literature, no.12, pp. 20.
Language Teaching and Research, no.6, pp. 27-29.