

# Exploration and Practice of STEAM Teaching Model of Comprehensive English Integrating the Ideological and Political Concept

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**Abstract:** *Comprehensive English is a comprehensive course for English majors to lay the foundation. While English is a language tool, which can be integrated into the learning of various subjects, and vice versa. STEAM teaching model can well satisfy the needs of comprehensive English teaching. It is the requirement and the development trend of higher education in China to integrate the concept of ideology and politics. Therefore, this paper will explore the teaching and practice of Comprehensive English from the aspects of theoretical basis, the status quo of the course and specific implementation plans, so as to improve the language skills and cultural breadth and depth of English majors, as well as improve students' ideological consciousness and patriotic feelings.*

**Keywords:** *Comprehensive English, Ideological and political concept, STEAM teaching model, English Major Courses, English teaching*

## 1. Introduction

Comprehensive English is a required course for freshmen and sophomores of English majors. The teaching purpose and task of this course is enable students to systematically master the basic knowledge of English language (pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary and discourse structure, etc. ), possess the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating, have a certain understanding on English-speaking countries' national cultures and traditional customs, improve the their abilities to use English in intercultural communication, improve their all-around English level and practical application ability, lay a solid professional foundation for students to study professional courses and related knowledge in higher grades. And help students develop good language learning methods and habits, cultivate the ability of independent learning and the ability to analyze problems.

However, English is a language tool, and at its best use, it is not enough to stay at the superficial level of language and culture. In the 21st century, with the rise of China, we should cultivate English majors with the same "national feelings "as all other college students, and let them have top values. Therefore, it is necessary to integrate "moral education", explore the ideological and political elements in textbooks, extract the correct values, and use STEAM method to expand cultural knowledge in all aspects, focusing on the world, so that students can have a comprehensive knowledge framework and a larger map and mind.

## 2. Theoretical basis

STEAM, short for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, is an integrated approach to learning which requires an intentional connection between standards, assessments and lesson design. It was first proposed by the American government, and then scholars from different countries made substantial deep research in it. Chinese scholars have also done a lot of researches. In-depth analysis and researches have been made in STEAM in terms of theoretical basis, evaluation system, connotation, characteristics and significance.

The basic skills of STEAM teaching are to inquire and stimulate critical thinking. When questioning, teachers are supposed to direct students to a right ideological and political concept so as to help students to form right views on the world, life and values.

STEAM education helps students to enhance their creativity and thinking skills, which is quite essential for their independent learning in English. English learning can integrated into with any

suitable subject. So ideological and political concept can be perfectly integrated into English teaching based on STEAM theory. Therefore, STEAM method is well ready and most suitable for our practical research.

### **3. The present situation of the Curriculum**

#### **3.1 Courses offered**

At present, STEAM education is mainly based on the Internet to explore the ideological and political resources in English education. As the most important language tool for international communication, English becomes a stepping stone and can also be regarded as a platform for students to improve their innovation ability and learning thinking. It has become an indispensable skill for people to work and study abroad. Through English as a communication bridge, students in the new era have broadened their cognitive fields and become familiar with the diverse cultures of various countries. However, in this process, the inherent cognitive concepts will also be disturbed and eroded visibly and invisibly, which will eventually weaken the fixed thinking of the mainstream cognitive state. But in this process, the inherent cognitive concept will also be disturbed and eroded visibly and invisibly, which will eventually weaken the fixed thinking of the mainstream cognitive state. There are many STEAM teaching courses in China, and the ideological and political construction of the English course is gradually mature. However, the English STEAM teaching integrating the ideological and political course is still not perfect, and there are few courses for reference.

In this paper, based on the STEAM education concept and ideological and political construction of English course, mainly aiming at the ideological education resources in comprehensive English course, taking the texts in *Modern University English* as a case study, using multimedia education tools, we make research on the cultivation of the students and inspire their innovative thinking ability and learning thinking.

#### **3.2 Basic Contents**

(1) Study the current situation of the application of English curriculum ideology and politics in STEAM talent training mode, find out the factors that influence the ideological and political elements and improve the quality and comprehensive development of English professionals, and then study the problems existing in the process of constructing the training path of compound high-quality English talents based on information media, and clarify the core points of the research. Subsequently, this paper investigates and analyzes the problems existing in the construction of paths by using the ideological and political education effect of English courses in the past economic globalization, and carries out research in combination with the current social requirements for STEAM cultural integration and compound high-quality English talents.

(2) Study the core of learning English, making sure that English learning is not only about listening, speaking, reading and writing, etc. In the process of constructing new English classroom mode based on STEAM, we need to study on the existing limitations in text learning, escalating the teaching materials with ideological significance to form correct three views, whose effectiveness is to be testified in the research process in term of the planning of STEAM related theories, the planning of students' own ideological and political development, as well as the future development direction of society and other issues, finally ensure that comprehensive English education is a process of forming a good personal character.

(3) After the construction of English course of teaching mode with ideological and political education under the information medium to ensure students' all-round development, teachers should make the specific practices combining the students' psychological characteristics, the process of which is required to meet the state and the new standard for English teaching and the overall requirements of talent development, and students' current specific demands and the effective programs of future development .

#### **3.3 Teaching arrangement**

(1) Relying on English textbooks, teaching through entertainment, using information media to excavate ideological and political resources and other related knowledge points in English textbooks, imperceptibly implanting healthy ideological and political concepts.

(2) Many students reflect that the difficulty of learning English has increased after the integration of ideological and political concepts. After surveys, we know that most teachers think that the difficulties of English course ideological and political teaching are concentrated in the form and teaching ideas of curriculum ideological and political teaching. Therefore, in terms of new teaching methods, we should try to take STEAM as a key to open the ideological and political exploration of English courses, reduce the difficulty through modern information media, and make students happy to accept it. Using questions and imagination as the introduction in the teaching, so that students can think and discover the ideological and political elements in English textbooks by their own.

(3) STEAM teaching emphasizes multi-perspective thinking, so students should be arranged to discuss and plan in the teaching process, and discuss the ideological and political value behind a certain topic from one unit of English, for example: *How Reading Changed My Life* is to improve oneself through continuous reading, form a positive and progressive healthy learning attitude. Then test the learning effect through Reading practice.

(4) Sharing and demonstration should be carried out after the practice, so that students can express to each other what puzzles and gains they have in the ideological and political learning of STEAM English course, improve the teaching effect in multi-dimensional ways, then reflect and make summaries, and continue to grow in the ideological and political teaching mode of STEAM English course to improve their comprehensive ability and accomplishment.

### ***3.4 Teaching objectives and effects***

(1) Through this study, we emphasize that STEAM English teaching should put moral education first, so as to promote the better implementation of the current ideological and political education, cultivate excellent students with an international perspective, and make the current English classroom a place for shaping highly skilled English application talents.

(2) Through this study, ideological and political elements will be integrated into English classroom teaching, and information media will be used to stimulate ideological and political resources in English courses, so as to promote English teachers to obtain higher professional quality and ability, and ensure the healthy development of students' body and mind, so as to enable them to develop comprehensively in the future.

(3) the construction of English teaching in the course of ideological and political system, getting the STEAM education a new direction for future development, is conducive to the research of ideological construction of English course, helpful for students to set up their own values effectively according to the specific teaching content and the actual situation, and beneficial to make an education program for students to develop comprehensive quality with ideological and political in English curriculum.

### ***3.5 Teaching construction and teaching reform***

At present, subject integration teaching guided by STEAM concept is in the ascendant. Among many subject integration teaching forms, course ideology and politics is a relatively difficult part, but also a very important one. With the guidance of STEAM concept, this paper explores the concrete implementation methods of the ideological and political teaching of Comprehensive English course, so as to strengthen the application of STEAM teaching concept and innovate the methods of English ideological and political teaching. The curriculum standards require English teaching to be combined with practice and pay attention to the cultivation of students' thoughts and values. The English ideological and political course is a flexible use of English classroom, which is a new class form combining English teaching and ideological and political teaching, whose purpose is to train students to use English subject to learn ideological and political knowledge, understand the connotation of ideology and politics, strengthen ideological construction through English teaching.

## **4. Specific implementation plan**

### ***4.1 Implementation Ideas***

First of all, further detailed research is conducted on the current status, level and problems of the STEAM teaching of Comprehensive English, which is integrated into the ideological and political ideas, and more detailed and targeted analysis materials are obtained.

Secondly, study the theoretical literature related to the STEAM teaching of Comprehensive English, which is integrated with the course's ideological and political ideas, construct and strengthen the theoretical basis of the researchers, and organize these available theories into theoretical manuals for the research, students and teachers.

Furthermore, the STEAM teaching practice of Comprehensive English, which integrates the course ideological and political ideas, is carried out for one class, (Class 3, grade 2019). In the process of practical teaching, teaching strategies are summarized, teaching theories are enriched, and systematic, simple and clear suggestions and implementation plans are finally formed.

#### 4.2 Advancing steps

Specifically, it will be implemented through the following measures:

First, construct the ideological and political teaching system of English course under STEAM teaching concept, adjust the current English teaching arrangement, coordinate teaching hours, textbooks, examinations and other teaching sections, and prepare for carrying out ideological and political teaching of English course based on information media.

Second, collect and sort out excellent STEAM teaching cases and explore ways to integrate English course ideology and politics, so as to form constructive and systematic research resources of a certain degree of hierarchy, and share the resources with students in a reasonable way.

Third, carry out demonstration classes to ensure that teachers can master the strategies and methods of STEAM teaching integrated with the ideological and political ideas of the curriculum;

Fourth, carry out teaching activities such as text discussion, data search, story experience exchange, learning practice sharing, and mutual evaluation between teachers and students. Students are required to submit their learning experiences or gains weekly, and they are to conduct English and ideological and political literacy tests monthly.

Fifthly, before the end of the study, a systematic assessment of students' English and ideological and political literacy is conducted. Based on the realization of each goal in the demonstration class and the feedback of the classroom effect, an English ideological and political learning sharing meeting is held to evaluate the improvement of students' literacy and the effectiveness of this research method.

#### 5. Conclusion

At present, curriculum ideology and Politics in English class is still insignificant in the eyes of most students. Meanwhile, due to the traditional teaching contents and single activities, students feel that English courses with ideological and political ideas are boring. In this case, this thesis tries to increase the interest of English learning through the teaching of *Comprehensive English* based on STEAM education theory, integrating the ideological and political ideas with proper point. Taking such a teaching activity as a starting point, it diverges into other forms and attracts students to the English course with the ideological and political teaching even without their noticing. Our final aim is to significantly improve students' all-around English literacy and ideological and political quality.

But STEAM education itself requires that a teacher have a large stock of knowledge, and the integration of curriculum ideology and politics needs the teacher's high virtue. Specific experience is to be obtained in each lesson of *Comprehensive English*; thus, further research will be done in the process of teaching. This thesis is expected to serve as a modest spur to induce teachers and students to teach and learn English with a new way.

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