

Research on College English Humanities Elective Course——Take English Public Speaking Elective Course as an Example

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ABSTRACT. *With the development of economic globalization, international exchanges of politics, economy and culture have become more frequent, and China's connections with the world economy have become increasingly close. As a cradle for training high-quality talents, many universities in China have proposed to train college students with an international vision and can participate in international exchanges and cooperation. Most of the college students in our country have received many years of English education, but there are very few students who can participate in international exchanges smoothly, it is inseparable from the teaching mode of English teaching in China, English teaching in most colleges and universities in China generally read according to the book, in addition, students lack opportunities for English practice, as a result, it is difficult for students to improve their English communication level. As an important way of expression and learning in English, English speaking plays an important role in the course learning because of its strong interest and high practicability, therefore, it is necessary to offer speaking courses in the teaching of college English humanities elective course. This paper focuses on the related contents of the construction of college English public speaking courses, in order to provide some references for the university to offer English speaking elective courses.*

KEYWORDS: *humanities elective course, public speaking, college English*

1. Introduction

Language is a communicative tool with strong practicability; therefore, language teaching cannot be separated from language practice, English speaking is an important expression mode and learning form of English, it is the best combination of oral and written expression, which is the perfect way to achieve language contextualization and instrumentation, it has a special significance for shaping and training students' language ability and comprehensive quality, and plays an

important role in improving students' English application level. Nowadays, more and more teachers and experts suggest that English lectures should be included in college English teaching courses, it is of practical significance to offer English speaking elective course in colleges and universities, and it can improve students' English speaking level and application level, enhances their comprehensive quality and competitiveness.

2. Development and Objectives of the Construction of College English Humanities Elective Courses

Through years of college English teaching reform, information technology such as network and computer has been widely used in college English teaching, and teaching efficiency and overall English level of students have also improved. However, the globalization of today's world and China's increasing international status has proposed higher requirements on college English teaching, how to further deepen the reform of college English teaching and keep pace with the times is a question worth exploring. In order to explore the transformation of college English teaching objectives and teaching models, how to further innovate the curriculum and teaching content, and better realize the goal of college English teaching, China's higher education should adapt to the requirements of economic development and scientific progress, promote curriculum reform, strengthen the construction of teaching materials, establish and improve the quality supervision system for teaching materials, determine the core content that students must master in different educational stages, and form update mechanism of teaching contents.

College English teaching reform will shift from teaching mode reform to teaching content construction, which has become the consensus of academic circles. The teaching contents of college English are gradually changing from language form-oriented to integration of language form and content, cultivate students' humanistic spirit and improve their humanistic quality through English humanistic resources, its purpose is to make learners have a broader and deeper understanding of the thinking patterns and cultural backgrounds of English-speaking countries. At present, there are still some problems in the practice of college English teaching in our country, for example, students' cultural literacy is poor, not good at thinking and deeply analyze problems, conversation contents are few, etc. The purpose of college English teaching is to improve students' language skills, stimulate students' interest, cultivate students' autonomy and creativity, enhance students' thinking ability and humanistic quality, and train more excellent talents with solid language skills, innovative ability and international competitiveness for the country.

At present, some colleges and universities in our country have offered English humanities elective courses, which mainly combine English language teaching with the knowledge of social science and humanities, these courses meet students' personalized needs for English learning in the new era and the need to train international talents with world competitiveness, it is one of the effective ways to carry out the reform of College English teaching in the future.

The college English humanities elective courses provide learning modes and learning contents that adapts to the learner, the learner selects the course according to his own needs and interests, and its basic feature is to advocate personalized teaching. The theoretical basis of personalized teaching is constructivism. The constructivist cognitive theory was introduced into China in the 1990s and has gradually become the main theoretical basis for foreign language curriculum.

The teaching view of constructivism believes that students' enthusiasm, initiative and creativity are crucial; teachers should strive to create an environment for learners to actively create their own knowledge structure, give students the opportunity to actively learn knowledge, and actively build their own knowledge structure. Everyone's experience is different from the environment in which they are located; their understanding of knowledge and their ability to solve problems are different, teachers should be student-centered and truly teach students in accordance with their aptitude. In the teaching process, Teachers urge students to combine new and old knowledge organically in the learning process through teaching, continuously enhance students' learning ability and interest, and enrich students' knowledge. The curriculum of English humanities elective courses in colleges and universities fully affirms the individual differences of learners, including the learners' existing knowledge, learning attitudes, motivations, confidence, etc., and encourages students to improve their learn independently under the environment of social culture, in addition to the existing experience of the individual and deepening the understanding of the new information, in allusion to specific conditions for students, teachers can improve the overall quality of students by revealing the hidden ideological methods in various social cultures, implement educational ideas, and achieve educational goals.

The personalized teaching concept advocated by the college English humanities elective course is very consistent with the guiding ideology of the college English teaching reform in China at present. The curriculum of English humanities elective course should fully reflect the personalization, it should consider students with different level, it is necessary to take care of students with lower levels, and give better development space students with better foundation, which not only make students to lay a solid language foundation, can also train their strong practical application ability, especially the listening and speaking ability; it is necessary to ensure that students' English language level is improved steadily throughout the university, and it is also beneficial to students' personalized learning to meet the development needs of their respective professions. Higher education should be based on students and teachers-led, give full play to the initiative of students, respect the educational law and the physical and mental development law of students, and provide appropriate education for each student. The opening of elective courses has make students with different levels, different abilities, and different interests improve their English language skills, it meets students' different needs and expectations on multiple levels, and achieves a student-centered, teacher-led, personalized teaching mode.

The college English course is not only a basic language course, but also a quality education course that broadens knowledge and understands world culture. Therefore,

the design of college English courses should also fully consider training students' cultural quality and pass on international cultural knowledge. Therefore, in the process of reforming college English teaching, our teaching goal should not only improve the language application ability, but also consolidate and expand the traditional advantages of the language subject, emphasize and highlight the important position of cultural knowledge, and establish cultural learning, establish the important position and dominant role of cultural learning and cultural studies in foreign language teaching and foreign language learning. College English humanities elective course promotes general education with English as the teaching language, it is the transformation of Chinese college English teaching reform from mode to content, and also increases the cultural connotation of English curriculum.

Due to the influence of highly specialized education mode, China's higher education has formed a situation in which science education and humanities education are divided and ruled, and pay too much attention to the training of specialized talents. With the development of internationalization and globalization, China's higher education has paid more and more attention to the training of students' humanities quality while spreading much scientific and technological knowledge. General education not only meets the requirements of social, economic and technological development for high-level applied talents, it also meets the diverse needs of individual educators. The implementation of general education for college students and the training of international talents with international vision and ability, and can participate in international competition is the general trends of current and future higher education development.

Language is a tool for human communication and thinking, it is both instrumental and humanistic, and the college English humanities elective course combines English language courses with general education, fully considers the balance between language skills acquisition and cultural knowledge impartment, it not only promotes cultural quality education, but also effectively integrates science education with humanities education. Language as a carrier and its content is the key. Students mainly show two problems in the oral English test, on the one hand, their language accuracy and fluency are not enough, on the other hand, their expression contents lacks new ideas and thinking depth. The humanities elective course not only trains students' language skills, but also teaches students effective language learning strategies and intercultural communication skills, and more importantly, enhances students' expression ability.

3. Teaching Practice and Enlightenment of English Public Speaking Elective Course

China is a country with a vast territory, and the educational level varies greatly in various colleges and universities, moreover, due to the expansion of colleges and universities, the students' English foundations are different when they enter university, and there is an unprecedented polarization. Therefore, when offering English humanities elective courses, each university should determine its own teaching content according to the specific circumstances, and do well in the

curriculum system construction and training objectives according to the students' English level, learning needs and the teaching staff. The following takes English public speaking elective courses taught by the author as examples, describes the specific process of the course implementation and several aspects that need further improvement in the future.

In order to ensure that the elective courses offered can meet the needs of the students, the teachers must apply to the teaching affairs department before courses start, submit the teaching objective, syllabus and teaching plan of the courses to be opened, the students choose the courses independently according to their personal circumstances, the results of the elective course are included in the total credits of the undergraduate course. In order to make each student participate in the teaching activities, the number of students in elective courses does not need too much, students are required to pass CET-4, which is beneficial for discussion and interaction between teachers and students.

The English public speaking elective course adopts cooperative teaching; several aspects of the speaking process include topic selection, data collection, script writing, and presentation skills, these courses are taught by different teachers. In order to ensure the connection between the various links, the teachers collectively discuss the curriculum schedule and the course assessment method before the start of the course; the teachers listen to each other, communicate with each other, learn from each other's strengths, and make progress together. The teaching form is mainly the combination of teacher's classroom theory explanation and students' classroom practice, the class provides students with a platform for presentation, teachers give comments on students' speaking and presentations, and inspire and encourage students to help them discover problems and solve problems. The assessment adopts the combination of formative assessment and final assessment, and incorporates the students' usual classroom performance and task completion into the final assessment, at the end of the semester, students choose a type of lecture form and give a lecture in the class, and several teachers form the assessment group for grading. Teachers usually design questionnaires at the end of the semester to understand students' opinions and suggestions on the course, and constantly adjust and improve the teaching contents and classroom design according to student's feedback. The teachers encourage and coach the elective students to participate in the speaking contest and the extracurricular club activities related to the course, which greatly enhances the students' motivation and interest, and effectively extends the classroom learning to the students' extracurricular practice.

4. The Necessity of English Public Speaking Elective Course at University

The speaking is a social practice activity; it is an act where people continue to speak to the audience during the communication process, it is a high-level language communication activity and an indispensable component of human social activities. The opening of the public speaking elective course focuses on training students use language flexibly in real-world context, conduct effective communication, and achieve success in mass communication. The public speaking elective course is

offered with language expression as the learning means, communication as the learning class, and the cultivation of comprehensive ability is emphasized, such as language organization ability, logical thinking ability, data analysis organization ability, rapid emergency response ability, and art appreciation ability.

With the advent of the era of world economic integration, international exchanges of politics, economy and culture have become more frequent, as the most common language in the world; English plays a prominent role in the exchanges among countries. With the continuous growth of economy and the increase of cross-cultural exchanges in our country, the demands for intercultural communication ability in today's society are becoming stronger and stronger, and the social requirements for college students' oral English ability are getting higher and higher. The use of English for public speaking and daily communication is a reflection of the comprehensive ability of English, at present, The students' comprehensive English application ability is more and more emphasized, in order to train students' English level, it is necessary to offer English speaking course in colleges and universities, the students' learning efficiency is improved through its strong interest and high practicality..

5. The Feasibility of English Public Speaking Elective Course at University

In teaching contents, the premise of offering college elective courses should be that students have completed a certain amount of professional learning and have a certain professional level. By offering elective course, students are complemented in knowledge or relevant professional skills and interests. As a result, most students tend to choose elective subjects that are easy and simple to pass. In order to attract students to participate in English public speaking course, the teachers must first grasp the depth and difficulty of the elective course, so that students can more easily accept and absorb. Moreover, it is necessary to strengthen the interest of elective courses, so that students are willing to learn.

In teaching principle, teachers of public speaking elective course should follow the principle of contextual teaching, let teachers and students freely use English to exchange ideas, and use language output as a goal and motivation to drive language input, so as to improve students' English speaking level. First of all, teachers take a tolerant and encouraging attitude towards the students' learning process and results, Secondly; they should choose independent and personalized teaching materials according to students' acceptance degree and learning needs, finally, the teachers must strive to create a democratic, harmonious and equal teaching atmosphere, encourages students to learn from each other.

6. Teaching Objective of English Public Speaking Elective Course at University

English speaking skill is an important communicative ability in a global and cross-cultural context; the opening of speaking class should be a special course with English language training and presentation skills. The main teaching objectives of

the English speaking elective courses of colleges and universities should be devoted to the following aspects.

Improve students' English language level. In the lecture class, it is necessary to fully guarantee the student's subjective status and respect the student's participation and interaction, which not only improves the students' reading and writing ability, but also improves the students' listening and speaking ability. First of all, students should be encouraged to give more speaking. The speaker must consult a large number of documents in the process of writing the speaking, then can analyze and integrate the data, and write a speaking with strict logic, clear viewpoint and vivid language. If conditions permit, the speaker must also make PPT based on the content of the speaking and send the relevant information to the audience. This process is a big test for students' reading and writing skills. The listeners are required not only to understand the main content of the speaking, but also receive and reflect on the speaker's information and opinions, think about the views that are identical and contradictory, and give different opinions to the speaker. Through the development of this process, the speaker and the audience form a good interaction, improve the comprehensiveness and enthusiasm of language teaching, can more effectively improve the students' English listening and speaking level, and realize the training integration of English reading, writing, speaking, watching and listening ability.

Improve students' knowledge and cultural accomplishment. The speaking course should play a role in training students' cultural accomplishment. As an art, English speaking not only requires fluent spoken language and beautiful voice. No matter what kind of language speaking, it can't become a mere formality and skill, the content of the speaking is the soul of the speaking. The content of the rich speaking must rely on the accumulation of knowledge and ability and the cultivation of cultural quality outside language. Therefore, when students writing a speaking, teachers should pay attention to strengthening students' understanding for the culture, art, history, philosophy, science and technology and economy of the English-speaking countries, and write a speaking with substantial contents and good expression. Through this process, students' knowledge and application skills can be comprehensively and rapidly improved. For the listener, when listening to the speaking, it is also a process of understanding different cultures, and can also improve self-cultivation.

Improve students' psychological quality. Due to lack of experience and fear of failure, most of the speakers have tension, anxiety and stage fright experience in the speaking, through the training in the lecture class; students can overcome this psychological obstacle through self-regulation. In the speaking course, the teachers create the conditions for students to practice by simulating various lecture scenes, and help students to correctly understand the nervous stage fright psychology through a large number of exercises.

7. Training Strategies of Public English Speaking Elective Course

Pay attention to the cultivation of students' psychological quality. Public English speaking does not require teachers to talk too much, mainly based on students' practice, which requires students to try various public speaking when they are learning English, and try boldly. Only accumulate experience in the campus, it is not easy for students to have stage fright after the work. In addition, teachers should organize and encourage students to express themselves, provide time and venue for them, continue to analyze and comment during the practice, and give the necessary counseling.

Reform the curriculum. At present, the opening of many courses in colleges and universities is still in the exploratory stage, few colleges and universities offer English speaking courses for non-English majors. Even English majors are only professional elective course. The vast majority of students do not really understand the importance of English learning, in their subjective consciousness, learning English is only to deal with frequent exams, rather than to participate in social activities and exchanges. If there is no similar course in the curriculum of the school, most students will think that the English speaking is just a personal hobby, and there is no need to fully study. Therefore, the education department should effectively carry out curriculum reform, improve the proportion of English speaking in the curriculum, stimulate students' interest, and thus improve learning efficiency.

Actively organize extracurricular English activities. Language scene simulation is used to improve students' interest in learning English and provide corresponding exercise opportunities, such as opening a "foreign language corner" in the school, conducting various English cultural knowledge contests, holding English debates and speaking, and organizing students to compile western repertoires, so that each student is in a realistic language environment, fundamentally improve students' listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation abilities, and encourage students to take the initiative to comprehensively improve the practical application ability of English. In addition, in order to improve oral English, teachers should make full use of school and social resources to stimulate students' imagination and creativity, and establish a teaching system that comprehensively enhances students' English level, instead of simply tying the learning site to the classroom, the practice should not be limited to paper, the opening of this teaching system should be a combination in and out of class. Training students is a long-term accumulation and gradual process, which requires continuous improvement of various conditions, such as students' learning interest, the quality of teachers, the school hardware, and the humanization of social assessment.

8. Teaching Methods for English Public Speaking Elective Course at University

Contextual teaching can be used. Contextual teaching has a good effect on strengthening classroom communication and improving English ability. In the specific teaching process, teachers can design a variety of communication contexts, such as work, social and life scenes, and their speaking topics can also be divided

into information introduction type, persuasion type, recreational entertainment type and etiquette conversation type. The context design of the work scene may include work report, project report, process introduction, product promotion, etc., the context setting of the social place may include exchanging views on hotspots and controversial topics, speaking at dinner parties and classmates gathering places; the theme settings of etiquette places can include farewell, acknowledgment, awards, welcome farewells, etc. By creating a variety of fresh and interesting contexts in the classroom, students are able to familiarize themselves with the different requirements of different contexts for language communication and develop their adaptability to changes.

Choose the right teaching material. By selecting appropriate lecture materials, teachers can make students observe and appreciate, stimulate students' interest in English speaking, understand the characteristics of English speaking, and familiarize with the relevant knowledge of English speaking, and lay the foundation for their own speaking. Teachers should choose some classic and representative English speaking materials, the inaugural speaking of the president of the United States, the award-winning speaking of the Oscar winners, and the classic appealing announcements for students to appreciate, teachers can give appropriate explanations and comments on the side, such as evaluating the speaker's speaking style, speaking posture, speaking content, etc., or ask students to evaluate, so that students have a deeper understanding of the form and presentation skills of English speaking.

Good at using video. When students are speaking in the classroom, take the student's speaking process, which not only make the class more interesting, but also improve the efficiency of classroom teaching. By observing their own speaking and comparing them with the videos of successful speakers they see, students can analyze their deficiencies more objectively and make themselves more fully aware of their level of speaking, thus taking more targeted learning ways to improve their learning efficiency. In the specific practice, the teacher can take a class lecture of several students in each class, play in the next class and let the whole class analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the video, and then the teacher reviews the video, the video can be played back in the review process, the magnifying glass is used to find the problem, and the students are encouraged to find the deficiency and propose a solution.

9. The Problems of College English Speaking Course

At present, many universities in our country attach great importance to English teaching in form, whether the course time or students' learning time are more than other courses, but English is a highly practical course, which is neglected to a large extent, the desired results cannot be achieved without scientific time allocation and practice. English teaching not only exercises students' reading ability, but more importantly, it can make students flexibly use in practice, can communicate in English, and express their viewpoint in public. Many non-English majors now arrange English speaking elective course at present, but basically stay in the

theoretical study in the classroom, which makes the students' oral level improved under the guidance of the teacher, and once they leave the classroom platform, The student's oral level has shrunk dramatically, and if there is no corresponding language learning environment, students have difficulties in coping with basic oral communication, to make a speaking in the public English elective course is a castle in the air.

In addition, the school pays more attention to the comprehensive English teaching of English teachers in the classroom during the training and introduction of teachers, lacks teachers with special skills or experience in the speaking, it is difficult for students to grasp and understand oral performance and English speaking in a scientific and effective way, it will greatly reduce students' learning interest and learning efficiency.

In the current learning environment, many students of non-English majors have a high level of English, master a certain amount of vocabulary, often read difficult articles, but lose their judgment ability once they encounter rarely-used words; moreover, the students will produce nervous emotions, which make many English learners feel very confused. The emergence of this situation is largely due to the improper selection of the learning focus, in a certain period of time, the English test played a positive role, it has greatly promoted the popularization of English in colleges and universities, but the development has so far revealed unscientific side. Some colleges and universities test the English level only by graded examination, most of the time in the classroom is used for listening practice and reading comprehension, the lack of language ability training is not good for English learning itself. English ability is the comprehensive ability of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating, English graded examination is mainly for listening and translating, it lacks exercises for other aspects, if the students are only for the examination, they will feel that learning is useless, which makes them doubt about the learning necessity, let alone cultivate interest. Many students do not really learn English learning, they are just coping with the exams, and Today's assessment system has influenced their learning mentality.

There are outstanding players who come out on top among the various events over the years; especially the English speaking contest is easy to attract the attention of various circles of society. Such great public attention, on the one hand, it is the competitive enhancement of English speaking contests; on the other hand, it is because large numbers of outstanding people come forward in English speaking. The former has greatly enhanced the blindness of college students' participation, and the wide-ranging investment, regardless of the level of the event, excessive events affect students' self-analysis and self-improvement, the speaking is an event involving wide range, if no improvement in detail, it is impossible to raise the level. On the other hand, frequent competitions increase students' mental stress and require too much energy and time, young college students who pay too much attention to results are prone to overconfident or inferior, which will put a lot of pressure on future learning, especially English learning. The students who stick out from the crowd easily pay too much attention to the event and ignore other levels of improvement; as a result, the overall capabilities of students stagnate or even decline.

10. Conclusion

It can be seen from the offering purpose and training results of the public English speaking elective course that the public English speaking elective course has a positive effect on the students' comprehensive ability, especially the language application ability. For the school, with the emphasis on public English speaking, it can stimulate the vitality of the school, facilitate the construction of the study style, and also enhance the competitiveness among the universities, thereby enhancing the school's popularity and creating the brand image of the school. Speaking is an important way of language communication in modern life, and it is also an effective means to train students' ability to analyze, synthesize, reason, and argue. By offering English speaking elective course, universities can more systematically train students' oral communication skills, standardize language expression skills, and develop English thinking ability and cross-cultural communication ability. In the classroom teaching, teachers should take students as the main body, encourage students to participate more, effectively improve students' English speaking ability and their overall quality.

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