

Nurturing Foreign Language Talents of the New Era with a New Academic Style

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Abstract: *A new pattern of foreign language talents development has been built with the changing of international situation and the developing of the artificial intelligence. Foreign language talents in the new era should possess three core qualities: capability of mastering new technology, capability of international communication and capability of mastering various skills. Therefore, the academic style construction of foreign language majors in colleges and universities should uphold fundamental principles and break new ground. That is, the academic style should gradually realize the optimal transformation to an intelligence-oriented, conversation-oriented and integration-oriented academic style to nurture the foreign language talents in the new era.*

Keywords: *New era; Foreign language talents; Academic style construction; Optimization*

1. Introduction

The world in the new era is marked by changes unseen in a century. Countries around the world need a large number of foreign language talents to deepen international exchanges and promote the building of community with a shared future so as to realize the modernization of the world hand in hand. The rapid development of science and technology in the new era together with the rapid rise of artificial intelligence has led to a reconfiguration of the relationship between human beings and artificial intelligence. These two factors has prompted foreign language talents to take the initiative to explore the dominant advantages of human beings in the era of digital intelligence. It can also be said that the changing international situation and the new development of artificial intelligence have put forward new requirements for foreign language talents. Therefore, foreign language talents in the new era should have certain core literacy to actively cope with the new situation. The building of academic style, which is closely related to the cultivation of talents, should uphold fundamental principles and break new ground in line with new situation so as to cultivate excellent foreign language talents with the characteristics of the new era.

2. New pattern of Foreign language Talent Development Built by the New Era

The world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. China is increasingly moving to the center of the world stage and becoming increasingly involved in global governance.

China has contributed Chinese wisdom and solutions to the problems of mankind with the style and role of a great country. China also aimed at promote the building of a new type of international relations with mutual respect, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation so as to build a community with a shared future for humanity. In the face of the new pattern of domestic and international development in the new era, foreign language talents shoulder heavy responsibility. They are requested to expand their world perspective and to tell vivid Chinese story from a global perspective so as to deepen the friendly exchanges between China and foreign countries.

The science and technology of human society also develop much more rapidly in the new era. Particularly, the rapid rise and wide application of artificial intelligence has influenced and changed people's way of production and life. ChatGPT technology, which represents the latest breakthrough in artificial intelligence, has entered the public eye as if it were a dark horse. However, while people are surprised by the value it has created, a "sense of crisis" also exists. That is, foreign language talents using "language" as a way of living are being put to the test: where is the place for traditional foreign language talents as artificial intelligence is more consistently creating more accurate and extensive language service? In the face of the threatening of artificial intelligence, foreign language talents must take the

initiative to explore the dominant advantages and professional attributes of human beings in the era of digital intelligence.

3. Three Core Qualities of Foreign Language Talents in the New Era

Facing the new pattern in the new era, the training of foreign language talents is in urgent need of innovative development, transformation and upgrading. Therefore, based on the demand orientation of talents in the new era and the path of talent training, three core qualities are proposed: capability of mastering new technology, capability of international communication and capability of mastering various skills. All of which have become the top priority of foreign language talent training in colleges and universities in the new era^[3].

(1) Capability of mastering new technology

Traditional foreign language talents are shaped by the ability of using language in both comprehension and expression. Where comprehension requires the ability to both quickly understand surface meanings and accurately grasp deeper meanings beyond the words, with an emphasis on understanding deeper ideas and emotions beyond surface language symbols; Expression requires not only fluency and accuracy, but also directness to ideological and emotional level. It can be said that the ability of understanding foreign language and applying it to express thoughts and emotions is the core competence of foreign language talents, which is a key advantage to surpass machine translation. However, the development of “human-like” intelligent technology is highly likely to pose a threat to the traditional competence of foreign language talents. It has been suggested that “the evolutionary path of AI can be predicted as follows: the first to mature is perceptual intelligence, followed by cognitive intelligence, again by emotional intelligence, and finally by behavioral intelligence.”[1] Thus, Only holding fundamental language ability is far more enough in the face of the impact of AI.

Capability of mastering artificial technology is the solution for foreign language talents to deal with the challenge of artificial intelligence. This capability emphasizes the skilled manipulation of artificial intelligence on the basis of the language fundamental abilities so as to realize high-energy and high-efficient “man-machine complementary” and explore the uniqueness and wisdom of people in the new era of digital intelligence. Foreign language talents should take the initiative to adapt, integrate and lead intelligent productive life. That means the foreign language talents should have the capability to master AI and use it to strengthen themselves, which include the improvement of learning ability and working ability to “achieve a high-level and high-efficient ‘man-machine complementary’.”[2] Beside, “focus on independent thinking, comprehensive judgement, and innovation ,”² Foreign language talents should discover the uniqueness of their profession and constantly improve themselves, so as to shape the irreplaceable position of foreign language talents in the new era of digital intelligence^[4].

(2) Capability of international communication

Foreign language talents are important force in enhancing international communication capability of a country. Therefore, the capability of international communication is one of the most important competence that foreign language talents in the new era should possess, which includes five specific aspects: “international influence, cultural appeal, image affinity, discourse persuasion, and public opinion guidance.” Foreign language talents in the new era need not only to have basic language skills, but also to focus on improving their international communication skills. For example, the ability to use their language skills to tell their country’s story to the world, meanwhile to show the world’s development to their country. In international exchanges, foreign language talents need to be familiar with the culture of target country, such as the differences in customs, traditions and values among different countries. Meanwhile, foreign language talents should also master the necessary communication skills and strategies that enable them act as bridge in cross-cultural activities. To be an inter-disciplinary international foreign language talent with high foreign language literacy, cross-cultural literacy and journalistic communication literacy can not only contribute to the promotion of international cultural exchanges and the building of a community with a shared future, but also play a role in enhancing the international influence and discourse influence of China.

(3) Capability of mastering various skills

In the background of the rapid development of artificial intelligence, the urgent need for more integrated foreign language talents training in universities and the path to achieve the need has become clearer. Take the cultivation of foreign language talents in China as an example, since the 1980s, the language talent cultivation system has trained a large number of highly qualified talents in the field of

foreign language and literature for the country's reform and opening up, diplomatic and foreign affairs, and the development of economic and cultural career. However, the traditional system of foreign language subjects has always suffered from a relative lack of diversity, professionalization and interdisciplinary skills. The foreign language talents in the new era should not only have the basic language and literary and cultural literacy of foreign language majors, but also master excellent interdisciplinary skills.

The rapid development and widespread use of artificial intelligence like ChatGPT has had an impact on foreign language talents. It will not only bring technological convenience and an explosion of knowledge, but also will turn highly skilled jobs like simultaneous interpretation into low-skilled jobs and undermine the value of foreign language talents. Therefore, for the new generation of foreign language talents, knowledge-based skills are no longer all that is required; abilities like critical thinking, application, creativity and interdisciplinary integration are becoming more and more important for the new generation of foreign language talents. Based on artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT, the demand for foreign language talents in the new era is no longer mono-disciplinary. The new demand places more emphasis on interdisciplinary perspectives, which means that foreign language talents should have the ability to acquire and manage multiple information. In short, foreign language talents in the new era places greater emphasis on being "multi-skilled and multi-competent"^[5].

4. The transformation and Optimization of academic style in the new era

In the new era, foreign language talents cultivation are mainly focused on taking integrated literacy as foundation, artificial intelligence as an aid, international communication power as primary goal and interdisciplinary skills as orient. Therefore, the new academic style also needs to be transformed and optimized in order to better nurture foreign language talents with core qualities such as the ability to apply digital intelligence and interdisciplinary skills, which include the following three aspects:

(1) Academic style changes from diligence-oriented to intelligence-oriented

In the past, the academic style of foreign language majors advocated the industriously practice of the five major language skills: they are listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating. Accordingly, teachers also focuses on repeatedly training and continuously polishing of students' basic foreign language skills in class. However, with the development of science and technology, basic foreign language skills and even language using proficiency can be replaced by artificial intelligence. Thus, therefore, the building of the academic style of foreign language majors in universities should be transformed from "diligence-oriented" to "intelligence-oriented" academic style. The so-called intelligence-based academic style, on the one hand, should make full use of intelligence to enhance language learning and strengthen the deep integration of modern technology with foreign language teaching and learning. For example, the use of online resource platforms for personalized learning anywhere and anytime, the use of VR technology to create realistic and immersive language interaction scenarios, and the use of intelligent assessment tools to provide feedback on the effectiveness of language output. On the other hand, it is important to fully develop the students' capacity to learn and think, to cultivate their spirit of innovation and creativity, and to exercise their ability to master artificial intelligence. The effect of which will not only lay foundations for adapting to collaborative working mechanism between human beings and intelligence in the future, but also facilitate the shaping of "personalized" foreign language talents in the new era of digital intelligence.

(2) Academic style changing from interpretation-oriented to conversation-oriented

In the new era, foreign language talents should stand on the height of "closer people-to-people ties", making their country's development and foreign policy recognized and accepted by the international public so as to enhance their discourse and international influence in the world. Therefore, the academic style should be transformed from the traditional interpretation-style of pursuing one-way language output to an intercultural conversation-style, so as to improve the core quality of international communication ability of foreign language talents. In addition to courses on listening, reading, writing, interpreting and translating to enhance students' professionalism, courses on cultural comparison and cross-cultural communication should also be offered to enhance student' cross-cultural perspective and to develop their critical thinking skills, so that they can know thyself in international exchange. It is also important to build a knowledge system of international communication for foreign language talents and to offer courses related to communication study such as international communication theory and international journalism theory. Universities should change the foreign language academic style through the curriculum reform so as to broaden students' international vision and enhance students' international

communication ability.

(3) Academic style changes from single-oriented to integration-oriented

Nowadays, single foreign language knowledge structure no longer meets the development needs of the new times, thus academic style should be transformed from “single” to “integration”. One way is to take modern means such as artificial intelligence as the fulcrum, by which universities can build an interdisciplinary system of data science and language science and integrate the advantages of technology so as to break the disciplinary barrier model of foreign language talents cultivation and create a “knowledge plain” for them. What’s more, Universities should innovate foreign language cultivation mechanism and mode to realize cross-integration between foreign language and other disciplines such as finance, medicine, law and computer. Such as opening up interdisciplinary basic courses, implementing the mechanism of double degree or minor degree, setting up multilingual interdisciplinary professional platform courses, and creating overseas practice brand programs. Furthermore, Foreign language talents can also preserve their specialized advantages through “foreign language plus foreign language” model and broaden the interdisciplinary knowledge through the “foreign language + other discipline” model. By these two ways, integration academic style in the new era can realize the “multi-discipline” of foreign language talents cultivation and improve their interdisciplinary ability based on foreign language.

5. Conclusion

In the face of new conditions, foreign language talents cultivation in universities must keep up with the trend of the times, uphold fundamental principles and break new ground, and take the initiative to carry out reform and innovation on the basis of retaining the advantages and characteristics of foreign language majors. Through the reform of foreign language curriculum and the innovation of foreign language talent training mode and teaching mode, the academic style should be gradually transformed into intelligence-oriented, conversation-oriented and integration-oriented, the core qualities of foreign language talents such as capability of mastering new technology, capability of international communication and capability of mastering various skills. Should be improved. Eventually, high-quality foreign language talents will be cultivated to promote the building of a community with a shared future for all and the road of world modernization^[6].

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