

# Research on the Teaching Reform of Professional English for Animal Husbandry Major Students

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**Abstract:** *At present, our modern livestock husbandry has been walking at the forefront of the world, and strengthening the professional English level of college students of livestock husbandry is very important, the reform of "Professional English" curriculum is urgent. This paper discusses the current teaching situation and difficulties of the English course of animal husbandry major, and puts forward an analysis of the teaching reform of the course, in order to train the students of animal husbandry major to adapt to the background of the international agricultural countries and master the interest and professionalism of the professional skills.*

**Keywords:** *Animal husbandry major, Professional English, The teaching reform*

## 1. Introduction

With the in-depth development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, since the reform and opening up, China has continuously introduced and absorbed foreign advanced science and technology and management methods, and utilized foreign resources to promote the development of China's animal husbandry. Through the export of livestock products, not only the labor force but also the products are exported, which is of great significance for improving the development of the national economy. [1] In the future, in the face of the basic reality of increasing uncertainty in international trade, it will be particularly critical to actively explore a domestically based and properly imported animal husbandry industry pattern. [2] Due to the relatively short development time of the domestic animal husbandry industry, there is still a certain gap between the professional and technical level mastered by the developed countries. We need to vigorously cultivate English talents in animal husbandry and veterinary medicine, so as to better enable the animal husbandry industry to develop internationally. Technical exchanges and economic exchanges, thereby promoting the progress of the development of the animal husbandry industry. China's animal husbandry sector urgently needs to open up the international market and conduct good product and technology docking and cooperation with the international market.

But at present, China's animal husbandry profession still has a large talent gap. Comprehensively deepening exchanges and cooperation between domestic and foreign livestock and poultry industries is crucial to promoting the high-quality development of the international livestock and poultry industry and exploring the future development of the livestock and poultry industry. With the deepening of the "Belt and Road" construction, the exchanges and cooperation in animal husbandry between China and countries along the route will further increase. In the context of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, English, as a global language, is bound to play an important role in international exchanges and international cooperation. China is a big agricultural country. Animal husbandry talents not only need to have a good reserve of professional knowledge, but also have basic English communication skills and high cross-cultural communication skills. The ability to use English for professional study and research is also a language literacy that they should have. [3] Under the background of this era, whether it is research in the field of scientific research or international exchanges and cooperation, animal husbandry professionals are extremely important to the cultivation of their professional English skills and the improvement of their level. Through the study of this course, students can not only master the methods and skills of professional English reading, so as to be able to read and understand animal husbandry scientific research articles proficiently and fluently, but also broaden their learning horizons and grasp the latest development of international cutting-edge research results in the animal husbandry industry. It can also provide a compound talent pool for sustainable development for China's animal husbandry.

Mastering the English skills of this major is the basic guarantee for students in the practice process. Therefore, it is urgent for colleges and universities to reform the teaching of animal husbandry English.

## 2. The current situation of professional English teaching and its shortcomings

The College English Syllabus (revised edition) points out that "Professional English is an important part of college English teaching, which is an effective way to promote students to complete the transition from learning to practical application." [4] Chinese English majors should return to the humanities discipline standard, focus on training humanities general or general English talents, and give consideration to the cultivation of compound talents when the conditions are available. [5] In the process of college English learning, in addition to the study of general English, it is also very important for students to learn the English of their own major.

With the rapid development of animal husbandry in our country, the talents of animal husbandry need a strong reserve of professional knowledge and skills. Learning professional English can not only allow students to master more advanced professional knowledge and cutting-edge information of industry development, but also promote good exchanges and cooperation with animal husbandry talents from various countries. However, there are still many deficiencies in the teaching of English for students majoring in animal husbandry in colleges and universities. In the new era, the cultivation of English talents for animal husbandry and veterinary medicine should continue to innovate, reform the current training methods of professional English talents, and build a more open and interactive English talent cultivation paradigm based on the perspective of going global. [14]

(1) Students have a vague awareness of professional English learning, and their initiative is not high. At present, college students are paying more and more attention to the study of English, but most of them are in response to the "Level 4 or 6" and the English examination for postgraduate entrance examinations. However, due to the lack of assessment methods and rigid indicators like ordinary English, professional English has weakened the status of professional English in the minds of students from another perspective, resulting in students lacking enough attention to professional English [6] and the consciousness of importance of learning professional English. In addition, animal husbandry English has the basic characteristics of scientific and technological English: English vocabulary is large, and word formation is more complex, including a large number of derivative words, polysemy, compound words, etc. And animal husbandry and veterinary professional English has unique syntactic characteristics, using passive voice and complex long sentences a lot [3]. Secondly, the written terms of professional English are more standardized and rigorous, the use of colloquial words and phrases is less, and the written terms and spoken terms are easily confused. Due to the poor basic English level of students, the characteristics of professional English vocabulary and syntax make the students of this major who are not very enthusiastic about English learning have a great sense of difficulty in terms of difficulty. And because animal husbandry professional English has strong professional requirements, has strong objective and rational thinking, and lacks perceptual thinking, students cannot realize that the purpose of professional English learning is to better obtain professional information of animal husbandry and veterinary medicine, which is helpful for professional course knowledge and English. The common improvement of communicative competence [7]. As a result, students are not very interested in professional English learning, and only passively accept knowledge, which is inefficient.

In addition, the number of English vocabulary of animal husbandry specialty is large, and the word formation is relatively complex, including a large number of derivatives, polysemous words, compound words and so on, etc. Besides, the English for animal husbandry and veterinary medicine has unique syntactic characteristics with a large number of passive voice and complex long sentences[3].

Due to the poor mastering of English of students, the vocabulary and syntactic characteristics of professional English make the students who are not enthusiastic about English learning have a great fear of difficulties. Moreover, they fail to realize that the purpose of learning professional English is to better obtain professional information of animal husbandry and veterinary medicine, which is conducive to the common improvement of professional course knowledge and English communication ability[7]. As a result, students have little interest in learning professional English, and only passively accept knowledge with poor efficiency.

(2) Colleges and universities do not pay much attention to professional English, and their teachers resources are far more enough. At present, colleges and universities pay little attention to the teaching of professional English. Most teachers of this major undertake the teaching task of this course, as a consequence, there is a lack of professional and systematic training for professional English teachers.

Teachers of specialized courses have great advantages in the explanation of professional knowledge and cutting-edge knowledge of science and technology.

However, teachers are not qualified in language foundation with shortcoming in standard pronunciation. Besides, the teachers are not capable of teaching English in the class with spoken English. Consequently, the teachers fail to finish the teaching tasks, which affects the quality of teaching to a great extent.[8] In addition, there are few teaching hours for this course and less time input, which leads to poor learning effect.

(3) Lack of self-designed teaching materials suitable for students. At present, there is a lack of professional English teaching materials for animal husbandry, which are relatively old and not high in effectiveness and innovation, leading to difficulties in self-learning and difficult to develop secondary interest in learning.

(4) The teaching model lacks innovation and the practice effect is not good. In the traditional English teaching of animal husbandry major, teachers, on most occasions, will ask students to read and translate the original text of foreign professional literature and master relevant professional vocabulary, which is relatively boring, and students cannot master the comprehensive application ability of literature reading skills and writing skills.

Besides, there is a lack of situational teaching, students' listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities have not been trained and cultivated with high quality, and the lack of rich practical opportunities, resulting in the difficulty of full application and verification of professional theoretical knowledge, so that students can not effectively consolidate and memorize the classroom knowledge.[9]

### 3. Suggestions on teaching reform of English for Animal Husbandry

(1) Appropriately increase the class hours, pay equal attention to general English and professional English. Colleges and universities should increase the importance of professional English teaching, appropriately increase the class hours, adjust professional English as a compulsory course, strict assessment system, so that students pay more attention to this course.

In teaching, teachers of specialized courses should strengthen the guidance in the early stage, and explain more achievements in animal husbandry in developed countries, so that students can realize that learning professional English is an important means to understand and master the frontier knowledge of animal husbandry. [10]

(2) Establish a teaching material system with the characteristics of the school and develop practical teaching materials. Colleges and universities should develop practical teaching materials suitable for students in accordance with the learning needs of their students, combined with the needs of the animal husbandry industry, and the basic English level of students, so that students can more easily accept and understand relevant professional knowledge. In order to meet the rapid development of the information age, in order to cover the content of the sub-disciplines of animal husbandry, and to meet the learning needs of talents in the animal husbandry industry at different levels, the English teaching materials for animal husbandry must be timely, comprehensive and applicable. [11] At the same time, it is necessary to cultivate students' reading ability and mastery of cutting-edge professional literature.

(3) Improve the professional level of teachers. To strengthen the training of professional English teachers, give full play to the advantages of professional teaching talents, relying on teaching training, teaching guidance to build a comprehensive quality of professional English teaching team. At the same time, it will build an interactive platform for English teachers and professional teachers to speed up the pace of professional English teaching. Teachers are encouraged to devote themselves to the teaching of this course, so as to realize double-teacher teaching and bilingual teaching.[12] The improvement of teachers' professional level enables students to fully understand the importance of professional English for the improvement of students' professional ability in animal husbandry and even their future career application, so as to actively mobilize students' interest and subjectivity in professional English learning.

(4) Optimize and innovate teaching mode. Teachers should optimize the teaching mode, from the teaching purpose, teaching content, teaching method to assessment method, teaching evaluation, formulate a strict and meticulous teaching plan according to the basic level of students, and teach according to needs. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen the cultivation of students' English listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities. Realize three-dimensional teaching method and use multimedia for situational teaching. For example, let students make PPTs of their own professional knowledge related

to their own interests and give speeches. Students can ask questions freely, and then teachers will make comments. This can not only cultivate students' ability to master professional knowledge, but also improve their listening and speaking levels, and increase the interest of the classroom, so that students have a strong enthusiasm for learning the course. The post in the animal husbandry industry requires students to be able to understand the English terminology related to the position, have the ability to communicate with customers in English, read and translate instruction manuals and related technical manuals, and use the Internet to query related professional English materials. [13] Therefore, teachers should try their best to create English situations, use actual cases flexibly, and make the classroom real and social. In addition, teachers should set up some professional problems around the skill needs of the target group of the major, guide students to solve them independently, and allow students to discuss. Teachers should strengthen students' oral interaction practice, and take students as the center of the classroom. This can not only fully stimulate students' interest in English learning, but also allow students to better combine professional English with the professional knowledge they have learned, so as to achieve practical teaching and vocational targeted teaching.[15]

#### 4. Conclusion

At present, the animal husbandry industry has become a pillar industry in China and has an important position in the world. Under the background of economic globalization, in today's world, with the increasingly close exchanges between countries, people's demand for professional talents is developing towards a comprehensive and complex development. Learning English for animal husbandry will be the development trend of excellent training and reserve of animal husbandry talents. Animal husbandry talents should be more aware of the importance of learning English for animal husbandry. At the same time, colleges and universities should also attach importance to and improve the teaching of this course, develop practical teaching materials, vigorously cultivate teachers' professional ability, and optimize their teaching mode. In this way, high-quality and practical teaching effects can be ensured, and the innovation and interest of the classroom can be improved. It will help students overcome their fear of professional English learning and fully stimulate their initiative and enthusiasm in studying the course. In the process of improving professional English literacy, it can also enrich students' knowledge accumulation, improve their professional level, and further cultivate modern high-level and high-quality animal husbandry compound talents who can combine professional English with practice.

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