

Study on Integrating Ideological and Political Education into College English Reading and Writing Course

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Abstract: *To begin with, this paper discusses the idea of Ideological and Political Theories Teaching in All Courses, analyzes humanistic characteristics of College English Curriculum and core socialist values, then integrates core socialist values into college English teaching with two examples from New College English Integrated Course 4, and finally realizes the purpose of cultivating college students' patriotic and professional spirits.*

Keywords: *Ideological and political education; college English course; core socialist values*

1. Introduction

The ideological and political guidance for college students has consistently been regarded as the top priority of ideological and political education. Strengthening the ideological and political theory education is not simply the task of ideological and political teachers and counselors. The ideological and political course will run through every class of university education. Teachers of other disciplines as well as the ideological and political teachers and counselors should jointly undertake the ideological and political education of students. College foreign language education is an important component of higher education in China. As the main content of college foreign language education, College English course is a compulsory basic course for most non-English majors in the undergraduate education stage. It plays an important part in the implementation of ideological and political education.

2. Ideological and political education in courses

The idea of Ideological and Political Theories Teaching in All Courses was firstly put forward by Shanghai Municipal Party Committee and Government in 2014, aiming to strengthen morality education of all students in China. The fundamental task is to deeply explore the ideological and political theory education in various courses so that all kinds of courses and ideological and political theory courses can work in the same direction and form the concept of comprehensive education of whole staff, whole process and all courses[1].

At the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities held in Beijing in December 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that we should persist in taking the moral education as the central link, and integrate the ideological and political work throughout the whole process of education and teaching, so as to achieve full and all-round education. According to Xi Jinping's instructions, the national colleges and universities shoulder the momentous task of fostering students' virtue through college curricula.

3. Ideological and political education in College English Curriculum

3.1 The nature of College English Curriculum

College English curriculum is part of humanistic education in colleges and universities, which has both instrumental features and humanistic characteristics. As far as humanity is concerned, one of the principal tasks of College English curriculum is to carry out cross-cultural education. Language is not only the carrier of culture, but also an integral part of culture. In addition to learning and exchanging advanced science and technology or professional information, students should also understand foreign

society and culture, enhance their understanding of different cultures and awareness of similarities and differences between Chinese and foreign cultures, and cultivate their cross-cultural communication ability. The core of humanity is individual-oriented education, carrying forward people's value, and paying attention to the cultivation and all-round development of people's comprehensive quality. And core socialist values should be organically integrated into College English teaching content. Therefore, it is necessary to fully explore the rich humanistic connotation of college English courses and realize the organic unity of instrumentality and humanism[2] so as to cultivate college students' core socialist values.

3.2 Cultivating students' core socialist values in College English Reading and Writing Course

College English Reading and Writing Course is a basic part of College English curricula. Its purpose is to cultivate students' English reading, writing and translation skills, and to teach English vocabulary, grammar, text and pragmatics, to increase students' basic knowledge of society, culture and science, to broaden their international vision and improve their comprehensive cultural literacy[2][3].

College English Reading and Writing Course covers a wide range of knowledge. The proportion of humanistic knowledge of the Course is relatively high. Generally, each unit has a theme. Teachers can excavate content of ideological and political education from different themes, and take the background knowledge, story plot, characters, emotional value or cultural elements involved in the unit as the starting point, and extend it to relevant ideological, political and moral content to encourage students to participate in classroom discussion, to help foster in the students the morally sound values and outlook on the world and life, and to cultivate and practice the core socialist values. By taking two units in *New College English Integrated Course 4* (Second Edition) for example, this paper is going to explain how ideological and political education can be integrated into College English Reading and Writing Course to foster the students' core socialist values. Core socialist values comprise a set of moral principles summarized by central authorities as prosperity, democracy, civility, harmony, freedom, equality, justice, the rule of law, patriotism, dedication, integrity and friendliness.[4]

(1) "Patriotism", one of the core socialist values, is advocated at the citizen level, which is the most basic value criterion of citizens and the foundation of core socialist values. In college English classroom teaching, timely and appropriate integration of patriotism education into English teaching can not only help students expand their vocabulary and understand the latest English expressions, but also exert an imperceptible influence on them by deepening their understanding of their own country, so that they can love their motherland sincerely.[5] The first article in unit 1 in *New College English Integrated Course 4* (Second Edition) describes how Napoleon's Grand Army and Hitler's army of Nazi were defeated by the Russian people's tenacious resistance and the help of the cold Russian winter. For instance, Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union had three broad thrusts: against Leningrad and Moscow and through the Ukraine. "In the north, the Germans closed in on Leningrad. Despite great suffering, however, the people of Leningrad refused to surrender." [6] This shows heroic spirits of the Soviet people to defend their country and resist the enemy. When discussing the article with college students, English teachers can combine the theme of the article with Chinese People's Anti-Japanese War by using audio, video, pictures, symbols, colors or objects to introduce the heroic deeds of the Chinese People during the War of Resistance against Japan to the students, let them read books about the Anti-Japanese War, watch videos or films about the Anti-Japanese War, and learn the indomitable spirit of Chinese people, deeply understand the hardships of revolution, and cherish today's peaceful and happy life. Patriotic education for college students is conducive to stimulating their patriotic feelings and cultivate their core socialist values[1]. After discussing and studying the article, the students are required to write a composition on the topic of *Be Patriotic* to express their love for the motherland.

(2) Unit 3 in *New College English Integrated Course 4* (Second Edition) offers college students some useful advice on preparing themselves for a successful job interview, and subsequently, the job itself. So in the teaching procedures, the students are expected to collect some information about job or profession from internet, books and other resources before class. In warming-up activities in class, the students will be asked to present the information they collected, and teacher introduces 16 new professions (such as industrial internet technicians, virtual reality technicians, artificial intelligence trainers, all-media operators and respiratory therapists) released by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of China in March 2020, then the teacher asks the students to work in group to discuss the new professions and the traditional ones. After discussion, some groups will be encouraged to share their answers to the questions like "What kind of job would attract you more? Job with high

pay or job you are interested in? ” with the class and then give the reasons. After completion of the above teaching activities, the students will become more familiar with some jobs or professions which they may take in the future. At the same time, professional ethics and professional spirit education can naturally be integrated to promote the development of various disciplines and comprehensively enhance students’ core quality[7], specifically their “dedication”.

4. Conclusion

Integrating the idea of Ideological and Political Theories into College English Reading and Writing Course has proven to serve as a feasible method, which can be used for cultivating college students’ core socialist values and strengthening their patriotic and professional spirits. And further study on feasibility and effectiveness of implementation of ideological and political education in College English Curricula will be carried out in the future.

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