

Ruminating the innovative significance of educational linguistics to education

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Abstract: *A review of the disciplinary development and theoretical achievements of educational linguistics from a modern educational perspective can help to suggest basic paths to solve existing problems in educational linguistics, and explore the innovative implications of its development for education based on the current educational linguistics in the new environment in which it finds itself. Educational linguistics must be used as a guide to carry out innovative reforms in education, especially foreign language education, and to consider it comprehensively from the micro to the macro level, so as to achieve an organic combination of theory and practice.*

Keywords: *Educational linguistics, Language education, Innovative development, Pedagogical reform*

1. Introduction

Language is an important tool for human communication, through which human thoughts can be expressed and emotions can be accurately communicated. Education, as a social act of human development, requires the involvement of language to convey content, build a body of knowledge, and help students better understand, appreciate, and deepen it. The discipline of educational linguistics was born out of these educational aspirations, aiming to deliver content and address a range of educational practices through the collision of linguistics and pedagogy, integrating linguistics, sociology and related disciplines. This paper analyzes the research value of educational linguistics from the perspective of its disciplinary overview and research fields, composes the ideas and methods of innovative reforms in the educational dimension, and proposes theoretical considerations for the further development of educational linguistics, which are enlightening for its innovative research.

2. Disciplinary overview of educational linguistics

Educational Linguistics is an emerging discipline of an interdisciplinary nature, one of the many branches of education, as well as a systematic application of educational science. It has developed unique laws and innovations in the last decade of experience in combining educational majors with other majors.

2.1. The disciplinary orientation of educational linguistics

Educational linguistics has a different meaning from that of language education and is divided into two parts, one traditionally known as "applied linguistics" and the other as "applied linguistics in the narrow sense". Educational linguistics is a discipline more suited than others to the intrinsic nature of what is being described, and it is a vital application of linguistics that encompasses the basic linguistic theories of teaching and learning in native and foreign languages, as well as the methods of implementation of specific teaching processes, i.e., the use of language in teaching and learning. In short, educational linguistics is a vital interdisciplinary discipline that applies basic linguistic theories to the study of teaching and learning.

2.2. Disciplinary development of educational linguistics

The development of educational linguistics is divided into several stages. From the birth of the name, "educational linguistics" was first proposed by the linguist Spolsky, who introduced the idea that linguistics and pedagogy are closely related. It is obvious that their connection is influenced by other factors, such as social, economic, psychological, etc. The development of educational linguistics relying

only on the application of linguistics is not enough. Since then, discussions on different aspects of educational linguistics have started at home and abroad, and the study of educational linguistics has been developed in different degrees ^[1]. After the emergence of the new concept of educational linguistics, the United States had its first doctoral program in educational linguistics, and the nature of the disciplinary specialization in educational linguistics first became apparent. The Department of Language Education, the Institute of Education and Linguistics, the Center for Language Education, and the Center for Language Literacy were also born. In recent years, with the popularity of domestic and international teaching and the increase of academic exchanges, domestic scholars have gradually moved toward an in-depth exploration of the relationship between language teaching and linguistics. Throughout its development history, educational linguistics has gradually grown into an independent discipline with good prospects for both current and future innovative development. The cornerstone of educational linguistics is language education, but it also incorporates a humanistic research paradigm, with the improvement of people's language skills as the main objective and goal in all cases, and therefore has pedagogical value; at the same time, in the process of education, activities within the field of education promote the development of linguistics through a two-way interaction.

2.3. Research areas of educational linguistics

Educational linguistics takes language teaching as its starting point, and its field of study is closely themed, taking a supra-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to research. As an emerging interdisciplinary discipline, it breaks through linguistics itself and has certain connections with sociology, psychology, anthropology, ethnology, cognitive science, law and other disciplines, building bridges and knots between education, psychology, linguistics and foreign language pedagogy. Educational linguistics is generally divided into five major areas: linguistic and cultural factors in education, language education policy and management, bilingual literacy development, language acquisition, and language testing. The five major fields of educational linguistics have three important characteristics: first, they are a clever integration of language and education, exploring the interactions between the two and their implications; second, they pose questions and start from the practical aspects of education; and third, they place a high emphasis on pedagogical use, covering all aspects of language learning. On top of the established field of linguistics, we have a new outlook for linguistic research in the new era. First, in the context of today's globalization, educational linguistics can guide English courses in higher education and personnel training programs and promote the new development of the English discipline. ^[2]; second, in the context of the implementation of a multi-ethnic language policy in China, providing appropriate language protection can help preserve cultural diversity; third, to protect local dialects and promote the transmission of intangible cultural heritage; fourth, to facilitate the worldwide dissemination of Chinese language and culture; fifth, to enhance the language and culture worldwide; and fifth, to improve the overall quality of educators, such as language ability, linguistic knowledge, and educational teaching skills.

2.4. Research paths in educational linguistics

The scholarship from language to education focuses on the impact of linguistics on education, supported by real-world data, theories continue to innovate, and education evolves and progresses with them. The use of discourse in the process of teaching practice in school education can be extended to all aspects of education. First, there are forms of bilingualism at all levels of instruction, which is the most direct integration of language and content; second, the delivery of different courses requires different instructional languages. Thus, in terms of its future research directions, future research in language pedagogy can be approached in the following areas: first, the integration of language and content in first or second language instruction, such as bilingual education; second, the development of the language of instruction in school curricula. Examples include geography and mathematics curricula; and third, home-school communication. Language skills enhancement can strengthen the home-school connection; fourth, the connection between the school and the employer. This is mainly reflected in the comparison of work field discourse and campus discourse among college graduates and the analysis of work discourse during internships; fifth, critical linguistic research. It examines the language of teaching from the perspective of linguistics, such as the precise writing of teaching materials as well as related materials; sixth, deepening teacher-student classroom communication. In recent years, these studies have become hotspots at home and abroad, in the process of continuous innovation and development.

3. Innovative significance of educational linguistics in educational development

The mastery of language use has an important impact on educational development and is also related to the training of human resources as well as academic communication. Therefore, the innovative development of educational linguistics at the educational level is a major issue that needs to be addressed. In order to achieve innovative development, it is necessary to clarify the meaning of innovation.

3.1. Promote the development of academic exchanges

The current Chinese classroom education is still problematic in terms of the use of educational language, with many curricula moving towards convergence, lack of systemic innovation, and fragmented course content. There is therefore an urgent need for diversified curriculum systems and language innovation to better promote talent development. This requires increasing openness to the outside world while improving the system, learning from advanced foreign education systems, increasing communication, changing old ideas, and keeping up with the development of globalized language forms. Through exchange and communication, we can absorb the advanced foreign research results of teaching design, teacher style, and language design^[3], and through the study of the basic language theory of foreign education, we can delve into its knowledge system and transform it into creative achievements, thus helping the continuous maturation of educational linguistics.

3.2. Promoting language teaching reform

The current language teaching methods, ecological environment and other levels need some reform. Teachers need to improve students' motivation to learn by providing accurate linguistic input and moving from abstract rules to concrete rules of practice in order to improve students' generational language skills. The innovative implications of educational linguistics for language teaching reform can be seen in the following three areas: first, it helps teachers to use high-quality and rich language materials to help students with oral and written language input, increase bilingual interaction time in the classroom, and promote classroom model reform.^[4], and second, it helps to increase the management of teaching to students' needs and implement it in all aspects of the classroom. Teachers should change their existing mindset, deepen their understanding of each student, and adopt teaching methods that suit their individuality. Third, it helps promote the reform of the ecological model of combining home and school education, forming a home-school community and making students' learning outside the classroom an integral part of classroom education. Teachers should pay attention to students' level of language mastery, change their loose attitude toward academic language, strengthen students' cognition and their ability to improve their understanding and absorption, which is conducive to better output of teaching results.

3.3. Enhance the future competitiveness of human resources

The purpose of learning linguistics is not to promote the development of teaching, but to integrate it with practical situations, to promote teachers' understanding of students' language learning processes, and to advance language development, transmission and innovation in the process of teaching practice. The improvement of language skills is an important guarantee of students' knowledge in various disciplines and a necessary ability for their development in the workplace. There are two major abilities at the knowledge level that future talents need to continuously improve. One is the ability to communicate orally and in writing, and the other is the ability to evaluate information and analyze it in depth. Educational linguistics just happens to be effective in enhancing these two major competencies for students, which is a key guarantee for their advancement into the workplace, helping to enhance their career potential and helping them to seek financially rewarding careers. It also greatly contributes to the country's ability to develop future talents and enhance their competitiveness.

4. Path planning of educational linguistics in the innovative development of education

Although educational linguistics is an emerging discipline in the field of linguistics, it has been evolving and innovating through the decades from its nascent birth to its robust growth and the establishment of the discipline's importance. Today, educational linguistics has gone global and has profound implications for the innovative development of education as a whole.

4.1. Create educational plans that meet the demands of the times

The development of language pedagogy requires enhanced top-level design, so that all types of language education at all stages are clearly positioned to keep pace with the needs of talent for social development. For innovative development, clear planning is particularly important. Language pedagogy requires a development plan that focuses on the development of students' competencies and values, and a division of labor among family, community, and school. Schools need to be supported by sound policies that present a variety of language content and flexible teaching methods. Language pedagogy should be explored around grassroots practice, using a model of teaching according to the needs of the students and categorization to promote innovative development of education from a practical perspective.

4.2. Strengthen language use by combining innovative means of science and technology

In an era of rapid scientific and technological development, artificial intelligence, a major frontier area of technology, has a deep connection with linguistics. Technological innovation provides the conditions for the development of linguistics, and the innovative development of linguistics in turn drives the continuous advancement of educational standards^[5]. This requires us to pay attention to the use of network science and technology in all aspects, to guarantee the supply of modern teaching resources through data-based construction, to combine traditional teaching models with modern teaching, and to establish the connection between science and technology and education, both in linguistics proper and in interdisciplinary research. For example, the use of automatic classification techniques based on similar models by previous scholars in the study of Tibetan dialects and the establishment of a holographic multimodal database of children's corpus. The use of science and technology tools not only meets students' needs for learning resources, but also maximizes students' subjective motivation in language learning due to the integration of natural and machine language.

4.3. Building a natural teaching ecosystem

What is an educational and teaching ecosystem? A system has a specific function in any situation and requires an organic combination of parts and components to maximize its effectiveness. In order to better function as a system, we need to create a pedagogical ecosystem in addition to applying basic pedagogical theories^[6]. First, teachers must have a certain level of professionalism, study basic pedagogical theories, and improve their teaching skills. In addition, educational linguistics is a discipline and a skill that requires teachers to use the basic discursive logic of language pedagogy to answer linguistic questions in the teaching process, especially in the areas of interaction and linguistic knowledge. Classroom discussion is a key part of applying knowledge, and teachers should translate theoretical knowledge creatively and pay great attention to students' cross-cultural literacy and linguistic communication skills. In this way, students can be truly motivated and a natural teaching ecosystem can be built.

4.4. Creating a diversified education system

The innovative development of linguistics and educational teaching are closely related, and in language teaching, especially foreign language teaching, extra attention should be paid to the construction of a diversified educational system. There are still various problems with pedagogy in language studies. First, in the context of globalization, international teaching is prevalent, bilingual education in all kinds of schools and language teaching research in colleges and universities is continuing, and degree programs are redundant and the system is missing; second, studying abroad is still a major hot spot, and its extension of exams for studying abroad, such as IELTS and SAT, has a huge impact on society, and tutoring institutions for In addition, the country will face various challenges in the process of development, such as the Belt and Road and other international projects in the endless new topics, which need corresponding talents. This requires a comprehensive and multi-layered approach to education and teaching, with different responses in different contexts, the appropriate use of linguistics to solve various problems, and the construction of a diversified education system.

5. Conclusion

Currently, educational linguistics is facing a crossroads of reform. As an important branch of educational research, educational linguistics must keep up with the times and keep accelerating the pace of innovation. Educational linguistics has far-reaching significance to the overall goals of education in

three dimensions: discipline construction, discipline innovation and educational development, and should be given high priority. At the same time, we should also actively draw on modern educational thinking, implement disciplinary innovation development strategies, reflect the value of disciplinary innovation, learn and draw on the world's advanced educational linguistics theories and experiences, and promote continuous iterative innovation in education.

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