

Exploration on Ideological and Political Teaching Practice of College English from a Cross-Cultural Perspective

Huang Juan

Nanchang Institute of Technology, Nanchang, Jiangxi, 330044, China

Abstract: To infiltrate ideological and political education in curriculum teaching is the key to moral education. This paper analyzes the characteristics of ideological and political teaching in College English course, introduces the design and implementation of ideological and political teaching in it from a cross-cultural perspective, and analyzes the problems that should be paid attention to in the teaching process. Culture is the sum of human spiritual and material activities. It includes not only the concrete and visible material level, but also the abstract and sensible spiritual level such as values, beliefs, and thinking habits. It is a comprehensive manifestation of a nation's characteristics. The cross-cultural perspective refers to having a full and correct understanding of cultural phenomena, customs, habits, etc. that are different or conflicting with the national culture, and accepting and adapting with an inclusive attitude.

Keywords: College English; Ideological and Political Teaching; Cross-Cultural

1. Introduction

On December 2016, President emphasized at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities that "We must insist on taking cultivating people with morality as the central link, and make ideological and political work run through the whole process of education and teaching, to realize the whole process of educating people and all-round education and to create a new situation in the development of China's higher education." He also pointed out that "we should make good use of classroom teaching which is the main channel. Ideological and political theory course should persist in improvement and enhance the affinity and pertinence of ideological and political education to meet the needs and expectations of students' growth and development. Other courses should keep a good section of canals and plant a good field of responsibility, so that all kinds of courses and ideological and political theory course can be in the same direction and form a synergistic effect". This means that college teachers should not only complete the professional knowledge teaching, but also integrate the content of ideological and political education into the subjects they teach.

In today's major colleges and universities, English has become an indispensable course for college students. On the one hand, students will inevitably be influenced by foreign cultures while learning English, and not all western thoughts are helpful to the physical and mental development of scholars. If you don't have a certain ability to distinguish, it is hard to differentiate between truth and falsehood. Therefore, the new era requires the guiding role of ideological and political education. On the other hand, the collision of Eastern and Western cultures has enriched students' value choices and brought ideological conflicts to students. The proposal of ideological and political education can tap the ideological and political mapping points, integrate education into the curriculum, and carry out the redesign of the course of *College English*, which will play the dual role of knowledge imparting and value guidance, helping students expand their international horizons and stick to their local positions. It will also reveal the practical significance of equal dialogue among contemporary civilizations and an inclusive understanding of cultural differences from the history of the interaction and exchange of Chinese and foreign (regional) cultures[1-3].

2. The characteristics of ideological and political teaching in College English Course

It is characterized by the unity of knowledge and value, the penetration of explicit education and implicit education, and the integration of discourse and practice. In essence, *College English* contains the

organic unity of knowledge and value, explicit education and implicit education, and discourse and practice. This is the integration of *College English* course and ideological and political education, and the internal mechanism of ideological and political education of *College English* course. The ideological and political education of *College English* course is neither the ideological politicization of *College English* course nor the simple superposition of *College English* course with ideological and political thinking. It is to explore and activate cultivation function of the socialist core values in this course on the basis of following the law of language teaching, the law of ideological and political education and the law of students' cognition and to promote ideology and politics into the teaching process of *College English*.

While learning Chinese and Western culture in the course, the relevant culture of the country should be added "in time" to enrich the culture of our country, and the students should be taught to stick to the position of our country, have a full and correct understanding of the cultural phenomena, customs and habits that are different from or in conflict with the national culture, and hold an inclusive attitude.

3. Ideological and Political Teaching Design and Implementation of College English from a Cross-cultural Perspective

3.1 Questionnaire survey

The research team conducted a questionnaire survey on 200 students from 10 schools, including the School of Foreign Languages, the School of Finance, the School of Computer Science, the School of Communication, the School of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, the School of Physical Education, and the School of Humanities, to know about their cognition of the ideological and political education in *College English* course. The survey results show that most students can realize the necessity and importance of integrating ideological and political education into *College English* course, and are interested in ideological and political education activities involved in *College English* learning. They hope that *College English* teachers can adopt various teaching methods, channels and dimensions to carry out ideological and political education, cultivate students' feelings of family and country, understand Chinese and foreign cultures, learn Chinese and foreign ancient wisdom, improve students' humanistic quality and so on.

3.2 Main problems and their causes in ideological and political education in College English course in the new era

First of all, the ideological and political objectives of the course lack precision. At present, English teachers still lay emphasis on the teaching of language knowledge and the cultivation of language ability, and have not fully realized the integration of curriculum ideology and politics with classroom teaching. In addition, teachers' academic accomplishment and ideological and political theory level are uneven, which brings some difficulties to the implementation of ideological and political education in *College English* course, and also makes the current ideological and political teaching objectives lack precision. In this way, it is difficult for teachers to achieve the integration of ideological and political goals with English language teaching goals, to give full play to their value-leading role, and to accurately grasp the ideological and political elements in teaching practice[4-6].

Secondly, the ideological and political content of the course is lack of system. The ideological and political content of *College English* course should form a complete system. Only in this way can the long-term development of ideological and political content of the course be realized and the talents with both virtue and ability be cultivated for a long time. At present, the content design of ideological and political teaching in English courses is fragmented, dividing English language knowledge teaching and ideological and political content into two aspects, which not only fails to realize the organic integration of ideological and political elements into English teaching content, but also destroys the integrity of the original English teaching content. The ideological and political education in *College English* curriculum needs implicit teaching, rather than forced indoctrination of students. It not only needs to complete knowledge imparts and skills training of English language, but also needs to imbue ideological and political content into teaching silently, so that professional knowledge and curriculum ideological and political content can form a complete system.

Thirdly, ideological and political teaching ignores subjectivity. Curriculum ideological and political teaching is to complete the teaching task of cultivating students' ideology, politics, culture, morality and other aspects, so its main body is students. Ideological and political teaching is also a new requirement

for teachers in the new era. Teachers, who are the leaders of ideological and political teaching, need to enhance students' enthusiasm and creativity in learning and play a value-leading role for students. At present, ideological and political education in *College English* lacks the improvement of students' enthusiasm, practicality and creativity, and is more about completing teaching tasks mechanically. To improve the effect of ideological and political teaching, it is necessary to take students as the main body, increase the interaction between teachers and students, and combine theory with practice. Teachers should take students as the main body, take ideology and politics as the carrier, and guide students to develop in an all-round way.

3.3 Ideological and political education of College English from a cross-cultural perspective

First, be close to the content of *College English* teaching and highlight the cultural elements in the text materials. For a long time, *College English* teaching has been concerned with the input of simple language content, and the purpose of both sides in English teaching is more prominent. In the course of teaching, teachers tend to focus on the instrumental attributes of language, and teaching and teaching materials attach importance to language forms, but do not pay attention to the meaning of language in society and ignore the use of language in practice. When carrying out teaching, teachers should not only teach relevant cultural knowledge, but also control the implied humanistic content in combination with the cultural situation involved in the textbook, and timely integrate it into the ideological and political teaching[7-8].

Second, expand the content of *College English* teaching and introduce Chinese ideological and political elements. Teachers often say that while teaching cultural knowledge, teachers should guide students to enhance their cross-cultural awareness. Cross-cultural awareness involves two aspects. When people contact different cultures, they can deepen their understanding of their own culture. The learning of English is special, and the content of English courses is related to many foreign cultural elements. Teachers and students can gain a better understanding of western political and economic system, educational system, interpersonal relations and other aspects by learning English language. However, English culture shows a strong side in the effect of enlightenment, which leads to the phenomenon of alienation of Chinese culture. For this situation, teaching materials and examination contents need to show a changing trend. In the course of explaining the course, teachers can flexibly add elements of Chinese culture and set intercultural communication scenes, so that students can have more understanding of Chinese culture and treat Western culture rationally.

Third, make current affairs news under control, reasonably introduce ideological and political education. Media is the most convenient way to obtain social trends and understand social problems. When teaching, teachers can guide students to collect major events or latest hot news from state media and foreign media, share and discuss with each other, and pay attention to and accumulate knowledge of cultural background, so as to understand the similarities and differences in news reports from different cultural perspectives and help students form a scientific value orientation.

4. Issues to Be Paid Attention to in Ideological and Political Teaching of College English from a Cross-cultural Perspective

4.1 Teachers are practitioners in the teaching of ideology and politics

College English teachers should study the speech made by President Xi at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities to realize the importance of ideological and political education in college education and make a deep understanding of the philosophy of it. Secondly, *College English* teachers must strengthen the study of ideological and political theories, improve the cultivation of Marxist theories, keep in mind the core values of socialism with Chinese characteristics, form a correct moral outlook, keep up with the pace of The Times, and improve their own political and humanistic quality.

4.2 Textbooks are the source of ideological and political content of the course

Teaching should be derived from but not limited to textbooks, and content with Chinese characteristics should be added to the teaching. In this way, *College English* textbook is no longer a one-way import of American and American culture, and its teaching is not one-sided cultivation of students' ability to have one-way cross-cultural communication, but also the cultivation of their ability to export

excellent Chinese culture and increase their cultural pride and confidence.

4.3 Teaching methods are the means and support of ideological and political education

Classroom is the main place to carry out ideological and political education. *College English* teachers should not only strengthen the consciousness of the ideological and political education, but also study new teaching methods and means to find the convergence of language and cultural teaching and ideological and political education, so as to better reflect the moral education function of *College English* and realize the effective integration of ideological and political education in the course.

5. Conclusion

As an inter-lingual and cross-cultural course, due to the particularity of its subject, *College English* involves a large number of foreign cultures. While learning English, teachers and students can learn about western political and economic systems, educational systems, interpersonal relations and other aspects. Therefore, the ideological and political characteristics of *College English* course are cross-cultural comparison and cross-cultural communication under the collision of Chinese and Western cultures. From the cross-cultural perspective, ideological and political teaching in *College English* course is still a long way off. Ideological and political elements in English teaching content should be continuously explored, and the teaching methods of *College English* teachers should also be constantly improved to promote the transformation from "ideological and political courses" to "ideological and political education in all courses", so as to achieve the goal of talent training in colleges and universities and the effect of ideological and political education in colleges and universities. We should improve the ability of students and teachers to "discard the dross and select the essential", fully carry out the fundamental task of moral education, and train builders and successors of the socialist cause with feelings of family and country and correct values.

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