

# A Study on the Paths of Ideological and Political Education in College English Course under Mixed Teaching Mode

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**Abstract:** To achieve the goal of fostering virtue through education, the universities are actively exploring how to carry out the ideological and political education. With covering Chinese and Western cultures, the college English course has the abundant resources in ideological and political education. And the mixed teaching provides a practical and innovative teaching mode for the ideological and political education in college English course, which helps to improve the effectiveness of ideological and political education. Starting with the current situation of ideological and political education in college English course, this paper analyzes its significance of the mixed teaching mode, further discusses the problems of the ideological and political education in college English course, and puts forward the new practical approaches to the current problems, which aims to offer reference for the college English teaching.

**Keywords:** Mixed teaching mode; College English; Ideological and political education

## 1. Introduction

College English, a compulsory course for college students, has the features of long credit hours, large capacity, a great number of service objects, and the close relation with the western culture. Therefore, the ideological and political education should be put into practice. The teachers shall offer guidance for the students to make sense on the differences between Chinese and western cultures, enhance their sense of pride and self-confidence in their own culture while broadening their international horizons, and building up the correct values. By applying the Internet technology, the mixed teaching mode opens up the "second classroom" beyond the traditional meaning, and its "online+offline" teaching form will greatly improve the teaching effectiveness<sup>[1]</sup>. When facing the problems of the ideological and political education in the current college English course, it is necessary to combine the mixed teaching mode and the ideological and political education in college English course.

## 2. The Significance of Mixed Teaching Mode to the Ideological and Political Education in College English Course

With great application value, the mixed teaching mode can effectively improve the teaching quality. Such kind of effective application in the ideological and political education in college English course will have a positive impact on the growth and development of students, the improvement of teaching activities and the enhancement of teaching effect.

### 2.1 It is conducive to improving the students' awareness and ability of innovation

Different from the previous teaching mode, the mixed teaching mode focuses on the students' achievements, and pays more attention to the improvement of students' abilities. The purpose of ideological and political education in college English course is to explore the ideological and political elements in English teaching content and increase the channels of ideological and political education for the students. By combining the online teaching with the offline teaching, the mixed teaching provides a platform other than classroom for ideological and political education in college English

course. Relying on the Internet technology that the students enjoy and are familiar with, it encourages and supports the students to collect data and study online by themselves. Such kind of teaching mode allows the students to enjoy a greater autonomy without the limit of time and space, which is conducive to cultivating the students' awareness and ability of innovation<sup>[2]</sup>.

### ***2.2 It is conducive to improving the teaching mode of the ideological and political education***

In the traditional teaching mode, the teachers often play a dominant role in the class, while the mixed teaching mode values the students' dominant position. The mixed teaching mode makes the classroom teaching colorful, vivid and interesting, which is conducive to exciting the students' interest in learning and improving their learning enthusiasm and self-consciousness. The mixed teaching mode attaches importance to the interaction and communication between the students and teachers, which is conducive to developing a good classroom atmosphere. As a practical subject, that the college English teachers create a free and comfortable classroom environment is conducive to improving students' oral expression and helping them overcome their fear of English learning. What's more, the mixed teaching mode will change the phenomenon of empty and boring theories, little content and power in the previous ideological and political education in college English course, provide different approaches and means, and enhance the strength of the ideological and political education in college English course.

### ***2.3 It is conducive to achieving the goal of fostering virtue through education***

Various means and methods in the mixed teaching mode are available to the ideological and political education. It is able to apply the Internet technology to making the ideological and political education work in and out of the classroom, as well as interacting and integrating with other disciplines and fields, enhancing the effect of ideological and political education, which is conducive to developing the students' diversified and high-quality comprehensive ability and humanistic quality. The mixed teaching mode can also effectively connect different subjects related to education, implement the educational concept of collaborative education, and help to jointly achieve the goal of fostering virtue through education.

## **3. Current Problems of the Ideological and Political Education in College English Course**

The initial purpose of education is to educate people. The ideological and political education is an effective way to foster virtue through education. However, according to the actual situation of the current ideological and political education in college English course, the ideological and political education has not been well integrated with college English teaching, exposing many problems that shall be solved by the universities as soon as possible<sup>[3]</sup>.

### ***3.1 The Shortage of the Ideological and Political Teachers in College English course***

Although there are enough college English teachers in the universities, only a few of them have the ability of conducting ideological and political education. On the one hand, it is necessary for the college English teachers to learn the foreign language and cultural knowledge. And many English teachers fail to have the ability to further explore and effectively present the ideological and political elements in college English course. On the other hand, many college English teachers have developed their own teaching mode in the past long time of teaching. They are accustomed to applying the traditional knowledge teaching mode to the classroom. They explain the words, texts, and after-school questions. And the students focus on listening to the teacher. Occasionally, the teachers will freely ask the questions in English, and the students are required to answer them in English. So it is impossible to have a good combination between ideological and political education and English teaching.

### ***3.2 Ideological and political education in college English course is a mere formality***

Some college English teachers do not have a good command of the nature of mixed teaching mode and ideological and political education, but just conduct some "perfunctory work" to complete the task. When combining the content of English with the ideological and political teaching, the teachers fail to get the point and apply it mechanically, just for teaching. The ideological and political education doesn't well combine with the features of college English, and there is a gap to the students' real life, which results in the embarrassing situation of "two states" of ideological and political education and

subject teaching. The mixed teaching mode is not the integration of online and offline teaching. Some teachers just have the online class with the offline content that hasn't been finished on the online teaching platform, or record the offline teaching as a video and upload it to the online teaching platform. They fail to realize the nature of the mixed teaching mode or properly handle the relationship between online and offline teaching. As for the mixed teaching mode, the offline classroom teaching is the most important part, while the online teaching is the supplement and assistance to the classroom teaching.

### ***3.3 Ideological and political education in college English course attaches importance to theory rather than practice***

Although the ideological and political education in college English course focuses on the theory, the theoretical teaching without practical activities to consolidate it often causes the abnormal situation of "great talkers are little doers". Some English teachers in the university have been aware of the value of ideological and political education and have made some explorations. However, they usually let students passively accept the ideological and political theory in the classroom, but do not provide them with the practical ways. Students fail to apply the ideological and political theory to their daily life. Such kind of theoretical teaching is not effective for many students with low ideological consciousness, and they will not remember it after class, which cannot effectively correct the students' wrong idea" they will find a good job, if they get the hang of the professional knowledge".

### ***3.4 The ideological and political system of college English course is not perfect***

There are serious problems in the current ideological and political system in the college English course. The ideological and political education in college English course is mostly in the charge of one teacher, and students' understanding of ideological and political education mainly depends on the teacher. The ideological and political education are promoted in many disciplines, but some boundaries exist among the disciplines. The ideological and political elements that can be explored in different disciplines are different. And their focuses are different too. An ideological and political element may be repeatedly mentioned in different disciplines, while some ideological and political elements have never been mentioned, which is not conducive to improving the effectiveness of ideological and political education. The teacher's quality and ability have a great impact on the ideological and political education. That only the teachers are responsible for the ideological and political education will cause huge differences due to personal factors. Such kind of the single channel for ideological and political education is usually inefficient and powerless.

## **4. The Practical Path of Ideological and Political Education in College English Course under the Mixed Teaching Mode**

The mixed teaching mode provides an effective way to solve the problems in the ideological and political education in college English course. To well combine the mixed teaching mode and the ideological and political education in college English course, the universities shall actively deploy, contact all parties, and gather their forces to achieve the goal of fostering virtue through education<sup>[4]</sup>.

### ***4.1 Get the hang of the mixed teaching methods and set up a troop of professional teachers for the ideological and political education in college English course***

Teachers are the main executors of the ideological and political education in college English course. The universities should inspire the teachers to get the hang of the mixed teaching methods and means and set up a troop of professional teachers for the ideological and political education in college English course<sup>[5]</sup>. The universities should regularly offer the opportunities for the college English teachers to attend the training of ideological and political education and mixed teaching, and encourage the college English teachers to hold the seminars to discuss the problems met in the mixed teaching mode and ideological and political education, invite the experts in the field of ideological and political education and mixed teaching to deliver special lectures, and offer the corresponding guidance and help to the college English teachers to answer their questions. The college English teachers should keep improving their ability and quality and establish the correct values. With high humanistic quality, the teachers teach by personal example as well as verbal instruction and set a good example for the students. Meanwhile, they shall study the latest research results on the ideological and political education, get the hang of the mixed teaching mode, pay attention to the international community, enhance the

intercultural communication ability, broaden the international horizon, and improve the effectiveness of ideological and political education on the basis of correct ideas and new teaching mode.

#### ***4.2 Make use of the advantages of mixed teaching to explore the ideological and political elements in college English textbooks***

Ideological and political elements are the good starting point of the ideological and political education. College English teachers should make full use of the advantages of the mixed teaching, explore the ideological and political elements in college English textbooks, and scientifically select the ideological and political elements. The college English teachers should improve their ability and quality. When exploring the ideological and political elements, they should get the nature of the discipline and the requirements of ideological and political education. In the mixed teaching, they should combine and present the ideological and political elements involved in college English, such as the comparison of cultural differences between China and the Western countries, and the speculation of Chinese and Western values, with a variety of teaching channels and means. It will offer guidance to the students to have a correct view of the world, consciously promote and apply the correct values to practice, enable the students to gain a good ideological and political experience in college English learning, and encourage them to circulate and introduce Chinese traditional culture and virtues in English. By studying the theme of each unit of the textbook, the teachers should design the thematic research learning, instruct the students for further exploration, show and communicate the research results in English among the groups in the classroom.

#### ***4.3 Enrich the practice activities of ideological and political education in college English course based on the mixed teaching mode***

Practice is the key to education. The universities and the college English teachers should rely on the mixed teaching mode to enrich the practice activities of the ideological and political education in college English course. The college English teachers can integrate the international hot news with current events as well as students' daily life to design and conduct the online practical activities suitable to the ideological and political education. For example, the teachers can invite the students to join in the video debates on the theme of English videos of Sino-US diplomats' debates or Sino-US press conference, which will strengthen and consolidate the ideas and values conveyed by the ideological and political education. By associating with the associations and student' union, the universities can actively carry out the public welfare and speculative activities, such as the aid education, volunteer programs, speech contests, drama performances, video contests and informal meetings. The students can take the charge of and participate in them. They can also invite the teachers with outstanding performance in the ideological and political education to make a comment on the activities. These practical activities enable the students to realize the importance of ideological and political education, consciously resist the current bad thoughts and misconception in society, and internalize ideological and political literacy in mind and externalize it in practice.

#### ***4.4 Combine the mixed teaching mode to optimize the ideological and political education system in the college English course***

The ideological and political education focuses on the collaborative education, and its task cannot be completed by a single teacher. The university should optimize the ideological and political education system in the college English course by combining the mixed teaching mode and coordinating all forces. The universities should inspire the college English teachers to do a good job in the ideological and political education in college English course, and actively communicate and cooperate with the peers or the teachers with outstanding achievements in the ideological and political education. Therefore, they can learn from each other and make progress. The universities should also build a bridge between college English course and other courses, break the boundaries of disciplines, actively carry out the interdisciplinary intersection and integration, and establish an online platform for teachers of all professional courses to share resources and carry out scientific and reasonable planning. They can also cooperate with other universities, public welfare units and education authorities to jointly create a "big ideological and political" system with local characteristics of the university and the local area, which will cultivate the high-quality and comprehensive talents with noble moral cultivation.

## 5. Conclusion

College English covers a great amount of knowledge and involves a wide range of fields. It undertakes the task of enabling the students to understand the world via language learning. With rich ideological and political elements that can be deeply explored and utilized, it is necessary and important to carry out ideological and political education. The advantages of the mixed teaching mode will allow it to effectively promote the development of ideological and political education in college English course, enhance the students' innovative awareness and ability, improve the teaching mode of ideological and political education, and help to achieve the goal of fostering virtue through education. With the problems met in the current ideological and political education in college English course, such as the shortage of professional teachers, the formality of teaching, the emphasis on theory over practice and the imperfect system, the universities should set up a troop of professional teachers for the ideological and political education in college English course and the college English teachers should get the hang of the mixed teaching methods; We should make full use of the advantages of mixed teaching and explore the ideological and political elements in college English textbooks; We should rely on the mixed teaching mode to enrich the the practice activities of ideological and political education in college English course; We should also optimize the ideological and political education in college English course by combining the mixed teaching mode. The strategies mentioned above will allow the mixed teaching mode to better serve the ideological and political education in college English course.

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