

Original Paper

On Infiltration and Cultivation of Cultural Awareness in College English Teaching

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Abstract

Most majors in colleges and universities need to learn English, and English is also an important subject. Every student needs to master certain English skills and English learning ability. In the process of English learning, English is a foreign language, and the cultural characteristics and values contained in English language will be different or even conflict with Chinese language. Therefore, colleges and universities need to pay great attention to the values output by students when teaching English, and ensure that teaching is carried out in accordance with Chinese cultural requirements. That is to say, students' cultural awareness should be cultivated in English teaching. Learning English language is not just learning grammar or words, but also learning the cultural awareness contained in languages.

Keywords

English teaching, Colleges and universities, Cultural awareness

1. Introduction

Language is a cultural symbol and carrier, and the foundation of social and cultural development. Culture and language are inseparable and interdependent from each other. In the current language teaching, few teachers correctly recognize the relative importance of culture and language, and rarely implement the output of cultural awareness in teaching. In the continuous development of English teaching, a small number of colleges and universities have recognized the importance of cultural education, and gradually began to deeply study the cultural awareness contained in languages in English teaching, scientifically grasp the internal relationship between language and culture, and improve the teaching quality.

2. The Current Situation of English Teaching in Colleges and Universities

English is basically a subject that every student starts to learn from elementary school. Before entering into college, learning English is mainly about learning grammar or words, but in college, more teachers will pay attention to the popularization of spoken language and English language and culture. Knowledge of a language and culture can indeed help to learn a language and make it easier to understand many problems in languages learning. However, most college English teachers have ignored the impact on students' values and emotional identity under the cultural collision between Chinese culture and Western culture. They rarely realize that the study of Western language and culture will affect students' views and understanding of their own culture, which is not conducive to increasing students' national identity. Many English teachers even exaggerate the benefits of using English, so as to make students learn English more passionately. But it is easy to mislead students. At present, English teaching in colleges and universities has rarely penetrated the awareness of Chinese culture and cultivated outstanding students with distinguishing culture. Therefore, Colleges and universities should pay more attention to the importance and necessity of Chinese cultural awareness in English teaching (Bi, 2017).

3. The Role of Chinese Cultural Awareness in English Teaching

3.1 *Helpful for Enhancing Students' Sense of Chinese Cultural Identity*

Cultural identity is the recognition and affirmation of people's national culture formed in the long-term common life and practice. The core of culture is values, which can affect one's behavior. Therefore, culture is extremely important for people, especially for college students. The sense of Chinese cultural identity can affect the further development of China in the future. People's identification with a culture mainly comes from whether they can really understand and identify with its values. The improvement of cultural identity can also help improve China's cultural soft power. Thus it is necessary to cultivate Chinese cultural awareness in English teaching and make students view the language and culture in English from different angles and combined with China's excellent Chinese culture, which can enhance students' strong recognition of their own culture and enhance national cohesion.

3.2 *Helpful for Cultivating Students' Critical Thinking Ability*

English teaching in many colleges and universities is positive for the spread of English language and culture. It is easy for students to compare Western culture with Chinese culture, but only unilateral teaching of western culture in English teaching will have an impact on students' judgment. The infiltration of Chinese cultural awareness into English teaching can guide students to look at the cultural differences between China and the Western countries more dialectically, and consciously guide students to deepen their understanding of Chinese culture and establish cultural confidence. In addition, teachers should transfer Chinese excellent culture to students in the teaching, motivate students and guide students to cultivate correct values and world outlook (Zeng, 2018), so that students can not only learn English well, but also stick to the position of Chinese culture, as well as cultivating critical thinking ability.

4. Ways to Infiltrate and Cultivate Chinese Cultural Awareness in English Teaching

4.1 To Improve Teachers' Recognition of Chinese Culture

The most important subjects in English teaching are teachers and students, and the role of teachers for students is before students' learning. Therefore, teachers' identification with Chinese culture can greatly affect students' identification with Chinese culture. Whether teachers can correctly penetrate the awareness of Chinese culture in class depends on whether teachers have a correct understanding of Chinese culture and whether they transfer Chinese culture to students. Therefore, colleges and universities should make requirements for English teachers, do a good job in teachers' ideological work, and carry out appropriate training to improve teachers' sense of Chinese cultural identity and exercise teachers' ability to infiltrate Chinese cultural awareness in the classroom (Peng & Xu, 2020).

4.2 To Optimize the Curriculum Setting and Teaching Material Content

The content of English teaching mainly depends on the teaching objectives and teaching materials. English teachers, in general, will explain and share the content in the classroom according to the teaching materials. Therefore, in order to penetrate and cultivate the awareness of Chinese culture in college English teaching, it is necessary to make changes to the curriculum and teaching materials. First of all, curriculum objectives should be changed. The objectives of English teaching in colleges and universities should not be limited to students' mastery of English knowledge, but also to exercise and cultivate students' sense of identity and pride in Chinese culture. After the objectives are changed, teachers will change the teaching content accordingly. In addition, curriculum setting needs to be changed. There are few English classes in colleges and universities, except for English majors. It is difficult for English teachers to play a role other than classroom learning. Therefore, colleges and universities should also make appropriate adjustments to the English curriculum. Moreover, it is necessary to adapt the content of English textbooks which can best reflect the focus of English classrooms. In the current English textbooks, most of the articles are from the perspective of English culture, aiming to enable students to learn more authentic English. But such content is not conducive to infiltrating the awareness of Chinese culture. Therefore, the content of the textbooks can also be adapted appropriately. Articles about Chinese culture should be added to enrich the connotation of Chinese culture (Song, 2019). Reasonable allocation of English teaching materials meets the needs of global multicultural development, so that students can contact both the classics of English culture and the classics of Chinese culture. They can express their own Chinese culture in English and understand the importance of cultural consciousness.

5. Conclusion

The emergence of language is closely related to its national culture. Culture can affect the development of language to a large extent, and culture is in the deep layer of language learning. In order to really learn and use English well, students must fully understand the background and culture of English language, and respect English culture, so that they can learn the language more pertinently. Moreover,

many values in English language and culture are different from those in China. College teachers should focus on cultivating students' awareness of Chinese culture in English teaching, so that students can independently distinguish whether the culture is correct, and stick to the original intention of Chinese culture when learning English well.

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