

## *Original Paper*

# Stimulating Ideological Education in Elementary School English Teaching with Interest

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### ***Abstract***

*The 21st century is an informationalized and diversified society, which makes people realize the importance of English learning. Many countries have taken English teaching as an important part of basic education. Because people attach great importance to English, how to learn English well is particularly important. As a special group, elementary school students have a strong interest in new things. Besides, "interest is the best teacher", so teachers should seize the characteristics of elementary school students, try every means to improve their interest in English learning, push students to seek knowledge, strengthen ideological education, study problems and get good grades. This paper will make a summary of the existing research from the two aspects of teachers and classrooms and focus on the study of how to improve students' interest in English learning after class, in order to improve students' interest in English learning through teachers' methods and parents' close cooperation.*

### ***Keywords***

*Elementary school students, English, Ideological education, Interest*

## **1. Description of English Learning Interest and Ideological Education**

### ***1.1 The Role of Interest in Elementary English Teaching***

Interest plays an important role in the learning process of learners and directly affects the learning effect. Interest, as an important motivator, has a great impact on enhancing students' engagement and learning. Since its crucial role in education is increasingly acknowledged, a variety of studies were conducted to investigate the role of interest in various aspects (Wang, 2016). Interest is very important for English learning, as it can strengthen students' learning motivations. Thus, interest is a very significant factor in increasing elementary school students' learning efficiency and helping them to

learn English well.

English is a language teaching, and effective teaching should focus on “listening, speaking, reading and writing”. Therefore, effective teaching depends on whether students’ abilities in these aspects have been improved. If elementary schools’ English teaching want to achieve this goal, it must be based on students’ interest in learning (Nan, 2017). From the perspective of educational psychology, interest is the psychological characteristics that a person tends to know and study to obtain some psychological knowledge, and it is an inner power that can promote people to seek knowledge. Students are interested in a certain subject, they will concentrate on it, so as to improve the learning effect. Therefore, interest plays an important and irreplaceable role in English learning.

#### 1.1.1 Elementary School Students’ Characters

The role of interest in children’s learning activities is more important, and the impact on students’ attitude formation is more prominent. Children are naive and lively, have no clear learning purpose, learning motivation is not strong, self-control is poor (Bo, 2018). They are very much linked to their surroundings and are more interested in the physical and the tangible phenomena (Hashemi & Azizinezhad, 2011).

Therefore, teachers mobilize students mainly by novel stimulation, intuitive imagination, vivid presentation, explanation, performance and practice and other interesting activities, students into the specific learning content. After the students gradually pay attention to and become interested in the learning content, the teacher, supplemented by the training of cultivating behavior and timely and effective ideological education, makes the students form a good learning habit and a correct attitude, which will promote the progress of learning.

#### 1.1.2 The Advantages of Interest.

Interest plays an important role in the formation and development of person’s personality and person’s life, this role is mainly manifested in the following aspects:

At the beginning, the role of preparation for future activities. For example, for a elementary school student, interest in English may motivate him to accumulate all kinds of English knowledge, so as to lay a foundation for his future study and work in English. Second, to provide impetus to ongoing activities. Interest is an activity with strong emotion, which can make people concentrate on acquiring knowledge and creatively completing the current activities. The famous Chinese scholar, professor Samuel Ting has moved by said: “any scientific research, the most important thing is to see what job you are interested in, such as physical experiments, because I’m interested in, I can stay in the lab two days and two nights, even three days and three nights, keep beside the instrument, and I am eager to find what I want to explore.” It was interest and enterprise that propelled professor Ting’s scientific research and made him a great success. Thirdly, the promotion of creative attitude towards activities. Interest will promote people to study deeply, creative work and study. For elementary school students, interest in a course will encourage them to study assiduously and carry out creative thinking, which will not only greatly improve their academic performance, but also greatly improve their learning

methods and efficiency.

It can be seen that people's interest is necessary, it's not only can causes learning activities, but also is a huge driving force for understanding and engaging in activities. It can make people open their minds, enrich their knowledge and broaden their horizon, and make them adapt to the environment and be enthusiastic about life. Interest really plays a great role in the formation and development of one's personality, if we always be interested in something, that's our advantages in life.

### *1.2 Current Research Status of Ideological Education in English Learning*

At present, the research on how to improve students' ideological education in English learning has reached a very high level. Many scholars have studied from various aspects. In addition to the role of ideological education, many scholars have also studied how to improve students' interest in English learning in and out of class, and the research has reached a mature level. This is because ideological education really plays an important role in the learning process. But there are still many teachers teaching English in the old way, they just let students recite vocabularies, sentences and grammars, and this is one reason why some students hate English. Besides, some parents don't realize the importance of ideological education, they pay more attention on the result and score. Finally, it is difficult for elementary school students to get ideological education in English learning. So we will continue to study how to improve students' ideological education in English learning and let them realize the importance of ideological education, for early attention.

## **2. Current Situation**

### *2.1 Teachers' Methods of English Teaching*

English classroom teaching is not only an important part to improve students' interest in English learning, but also the key to improve the quality of English teaching. How teachers teach in class have always been important issues discussed by researchers.

In recent years, after the reform and summary of English classroom teaching, we have received good results, but there are still a lot of problems. Some teachers talk endlessly in class. The blackboard is full and the students keep taking notes. This kind of cramming and cramming teaching method bring many disadvantages. Teachers speak too much, this can't provide opportunities for students to learn independently, students often in a passive position, no time to think, digest, absorb, of course, the knowledge can not be consolidated.

Then the students are required to memorize, some students even do not know the phonetic symbols, and can not spell the words. They often remember the word according to the alphabetical order, like reading a telephone number, just repeat and write the letter in order. As a result, this kind of students can not receive the due results.

In addition, students also need finish much homework, so they will face more and more difficulties. As time passes, they will develop a psychological fear and aversion to English.

## 2.2 Problems

In the current English teaching, teachers and parents pay too much attention to the results of learning and want to get a good result as soon as possible. So a lot of cramming education, just blindly to the child indoctrination of knowledge, let the child learn by rote. There are also some teachers who do not restrain their students, they rarely give homework, and often break the principle for some students. There is no creativity in their teaching, they rarely smile or seem excited to be there, and they typically make no connections with other faculty or staff members (Kazina, 2019). These problems make students can't learn happily, and can't stimulate their interest in learning, so we must pay attention to these problems. Because children once mentioned interest in learning English, improve the ability of independent learning, then their learning motivation and effect will be greatly increased.

## 3. Specific Methods to Stimulate Ideological Education on Elementary School Students with Interest

### 3.1 Grasp Classroom Teaching

The classroom is an important place of teaching and a major source of learning for students. So the teacher should make full use of the classroom time, through a series of funny activities and teaching methods to mobilize the interest of elementary school students, let them love English, so as to develop a good habit of English learning, which will be beneficial to their grade. Effective language teacher have been described in the literature as having not only a profound competence in the target language but a set of personal qualities like sensitivity, warmth and tolerance (Babai & Karim, 2009).

Besides, In elementary school English classroom teaching, if teachers can fully and appropriately mobilize students' interest in learning according to their characteristics, English enlightening teaching in elementary school will definitely cultivate more English lovers and improve the practical communicative ability of English learners.

### 3.2 Creating Various Situation

Elementary school students' English language sense and English application ability come from constitutional teaching, so the teacher can set different contexts. Therefore, in order to bring intuitive experience and feelings to students, we can strengthen the creation and compilation of teaching materials (Gu, 2019). For example, we can create a real situation in the classroom when we learn the relevant English knowledge. So for example, when we learn some words of Fruit, we can decorate the classroom as a fruit garden where children can pick peaches, Pineapples, mangoes and other fruits. With the combination of situations and games, students will have a high enthusiasm, unconsciously accept the English language, and improve their interest in learning English. This kind of situation is changeable, we can also collect some students' opinions about how to create these situations, so that they will enjoy the class more.

### *3.3 Creating a Relaxed Classroom Learning Environment*

A relaxing and enjoyable learning atmosphere can help elementary school students to study hard, think deeply and successfully acquire the knowledge about English in a pleasant mood and cultivate their interest in English learning. In order to cultivate elementary school students' interest in English learning, English teachers should try their best to create a relaxing, equal, harmonious and enjoyable learning atmosphere in class.

The relationship between teachers and students directly affects elementary school students' emotion and their cognitive activities. For example, when students' favourite English teacher enters the classroom, the class atmosphere will become active, and the students in the class will learn English spontaneously and happily. In the process of English teaching, English teachers in elementary school should respect, appreciate and care about their students, most important of all, treat every student positively and equally, and believe that each student has strong potential in English learning. In order to establish a harmonious relationship between students and teachers, elementary school English teacher can try their best to change their roles in traditional English teaching, pay more attention to their students' emotional change, take full advantages of their own experience in order to provide help for their students, make their students feel happy and satisfied during the process of English learning, and cultivate their students' interest in English learning (Wang, 2008).

### *3.4 Holding Colorful Activities*

Elementary school students are active, like to participate in a variety of activities, with a strong sense of competition. Therefore, after class, we can carry out various activities to improve their enthusiasm for English learning. For example, every month or week, some parents can organize some competition, such as: the chant recite aloud, show the dialogue, oral communication, etc. And reward some things for excellent children to encourage students to take part in these activities (Yi, 2018). For example, teacher can be to use "the game of rapid response" to motivate students' interest, if the teacher said the word "nose", and students pointed out the organ and said "nose", teacher said "head", the students pointed out the organ and said "head" immediately, I am sure that elementary school students will like this game and this way of English learning.

Having an English party or reading competition regularly. For example, let students make some preparation for the party when some festivals are coming. On that day, students can do a speech or describe a little story, I believe that these ways can motivate students' interest in English learning.

### *3.5 Parents' Attention and Encouragement*

Parents always want the best for their children and always want their children have a better life than they did, parents also provide as much resources as they can. Parental encouragement is the inspiration or extra-boosting given by the parents to the children for their active involvement in academic life. Parental encouragement plays an important role in the formation of life of children. It also enables them to face the future challenges of life. It involves a number of things like deep understanding of developmental process and learning of temperaments, intelligent, personality patterns, inter personal

action and socialization, etc. Not all learning happens in school; some takes place at home. To ensure those students are encouraged or motivated to learn at home, educators must involve parents (Lawrence & Barathi, 2016).

Only with their attention and cooperation can children have basic conditions to improve their interest in English learning. In daily life, if parents can pay attention, then they will play a role in guiding and supervising children. Guide children to watch English cartoons, supervise their English homework, and even play role-playing games with their children to improve their interest. In addition, if parents can encourage their children's progress in time, their children will be more motivated to learn English. Therefore, improving students' interest in English learning needs the joint efforts of parents and schools.

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