

Thoughts on Cultivation of Undergraduates of Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages (TCSOL) in Local Universities in the New Period

Taking Heihe University as an Example

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Abstract—Although there is a huge talent gap in TCSOL at present, there are still some problems in the talent cultivation of TCSOL in local universities, such as unclear training objectives, lack of features in curriculum setting, weak links in practical teaching, and difficulties of graduates' counterpart employment. The local universities should envisage to the gap with first-class universities and make full use of their geographical and regional advantages. And their goals of talent cultivation should be clearly set, the special features should be highlighted in the curriculum setting, the practice teaching should rely on the construction of practice bases, and the curriculum resources should be fully utilized through informationization, so that it will be able to explore a new mode of training the talents of TCSOL.

Keywords—local universities; Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages (TCSOL); talent cultivation

I. INTRODUCTION

With the implementation of China's "Go globally" strategy and the initiative of building a "community of shared future for mankind", for teaching Chinese as a second language, the discipline construction and talent training mode are also in urgent need of theoretical innovation on the basis of experience summary, so as to meet the current booming demand for TCSOL talents. According to the recruitment plan for international teachers of Chinese issued by the Office of Chinese Language Council International in 2018, there are up to two to three hundred TCSOL volunteers enrolled in the second half of the year alone in the 318 Confucius classrooms opened in the world by Confucius Institute. According to the statistics of the Office of the Office of Chinese Language Council International (NOCFL), Chinese has become the second largest foreign language in the United States, the first foreign language in Australia and the third official language in Canada. In Korea, France,

Britain, Germany and New Zealand, learning Chinese has become a fashion. The number of people learning Chinese in major countries of the world is increasing by 50% or even faster per year. Chinese has become the language with the fastest growing number of international learners in the world. However, the employment rate of graduates majoring in TCSOL ranks 73rd out of 79 liberal arts majors, which is in great contrast to teaching Chinese as a second language like raging fire. There is a huge talent gap between the demand for a large number of talents and talents cultivation, of which the reasons deserve deep consideration.

II. CURRENT CONDITION OF TRAINING TCSOL TALENTS IN LOCAL COLLEGES

Heihe University, located in Heihe City, Heilongjiang Province, is the only undergraduate university on the borderline between China and Russia. Heihe City is across the river from Bragovishensk, the third largest city in Russian Far East and the capital city of Amur State. Thus Heihe College has obvious geographic advantages, with deep contacts and cooperation with Far East Universities in the fields of language, sports, art and education, and has made remarkable achievements. In September 2011, the Chinese Department of Heihe University began to recruit undergraduates majoring in TCSOL, which is mainly to train the Russian-Chinese teaching talents. So far, it has enrolled 277 undergraduate students for eight years, and 147 were graduated. Although the employment rate of students majoring in TCSOL is still at the average employment level of each major in our college, most of the students are not engaged in the related work of TCSOL, except for individual students who pass the entrance examination of volunteer or continue to pursue further studies in their major. The employment situation of graduates majoring in TCSOL in Heihe University is not a single case. To investigate the reasons, it is suggested to reflect on the following aspects:

A. Target Location of Talent Cultivation

At present, nearly 400 colleges and universities across the country have opened the undergraduate major of TCSOL.

*This paper is the research result of Heihe University's a higher education teaching reform project in 2017, "Development and Practice of Modularized Personnel Training Program for Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages (TCSOL)Based on Professional Core Competence Training" (Project No. xjg1720).

Most local colleges fail to determine the training objectives and requirements of TCSOL Talents based on their reality, while copying the first-class colleges and universities' talent training objectives and curriculum setting. Talents training cannot fully meet the needs of international communication of Chinese, and the trained talents cannot really catch up the international standards, unqualified for teaching Chinese as an international language and cultural communication and dissemination.

B. Professional Curriculum Setting

At present, the majors of TCSOL in many local colleges and universities is applied and established on the basis of Chinese, foreign language or journalism-related specialties. Therefore, there will be more or less inadequate transformation in the curriculum setting and teacher allocation, so that the professional characteristics of TCSOL are not outstanding enough to achieve the goal of personnel training under high quality.

C. Practice Teaching Link

The major of TCSOL is to train the applied talents who can engage in teaching Chinese at home and abroad. Therefore, the important guarantee to realize the goal of talent cultivation is constructing a scientific and reasonable practical teaching system with strong operability and corresponding special features. At present, there are more theoretical courses than practical courses for the major of TCSOL in many local colleges and universities. The practical courses are still dominated by presentations and trial lectures, which is a lack of long-term and infiltrative classroom teaching practice of TCSOL.

D. Teacher Staff Construction

When many colleges and universities are constructing the teaching staff of TCSOL, although relying on the academic advantages of Chinese and other professional teachers, it is inevitable to face the problem of weak professional teachers of TCSOL. Although these teachers are highly professional in the fields of language and writing, they lack overseas teaching experience, which is prone to the problems of emphasizing theory and neglecting practice. This is also one of the main reasons why the students have weak practical ability.

III. COUNTERMEASURE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF UNDERGRADUATE TALENT TRAINING OF TCSOL IN LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

Now, among foreign learners of Chinese language, the primary and secondary school students have exceeded 50%, or even reached to 60%. The younger-age trend of foreign learners of Chinese language is the outcome of China's development to the level where it can drive the development of other countries. It is also a new stage of the development of TCSOL and a great challenge for it. The major of TCSOL for undergraduates is to train the teachers of TCSOL for primary and secondary schools, bilingual schools and Chinese language training institutions at home and abroad,

and to train the managerial and service talents for all kinds of language and culture communication organizations and organizations at all levels. Therefore, we must fully consider the new situation and requirements of TCSOL in the new period. In strict accordance with the National Standard for Teaching Quality of Undergraduate Majors in Universities and Colleges (hereinafter referred to as the National Standard), it is suggested to combine with their own professional characteristics and school advantages, deepen the reform of curriculum system in an all-round way and effectively cultivate the applied talents who truly serve the national "Go global" strategy.

A. The Training Objectives Should Strengthen the Advantages of the School

The National Standard is the basic basis and requirement for the goal setting of personnel training, and also the basic standard for the construction of discipline and specialty. The local colleges and universities should be guided in strict accordance with the basic requirements of the National Standard when formulating the personnel cultivating programs. At the same time, they should envisage the gap between themselves and the first-class schools and majors, suit measures to local conditions, fully tap and give full play to the advantages of themselves, and form the characteristics features of talent cultivation in local colleges and universities. Based on the above understanding, Heihe College has been positioning its service development as "Basing on Heihe, serving Longjiang, facing to the public, highlighting its application, and striving to provide talents and intellectual support for regional economic construction and social development", which improves the pertinence and adaptability of training the applied talents. Therefore, Heihe College, in the process of revising the talent training program for TCSOL in 2018, combined the school's geographic advantages, condenses the features of the major's Russia-directed education, and determines the talent training objectives in the light of the direction of wide-caliber talent training. Combining the language, culture and regional advantages of the "Twin Cities", Heihe and Blagovichensk, it is suggested to train bilingual talents in teaching Chinese to Russia, Russian culture, economy and trade, and tourism. The determination of this training goal is not only an inevitable requirement for the strategy of serving the "the Belt and Road Initiative" and "China-Mongolia and Russia" economic corridor, but also the inevitable requirement for the school's own development path and the construction of influential and competitive professional brands.

B. Curriculum Setting Should Highlight the Professional Features

The nature of TCSOL determines that the cultivate talents should not only possess the solid basic theories and knowledge of TCSOL, but also the profound knowledge and accomplishment of Chinese culture. These talents should possess not only the basic skills of teaching Chinese as a second language, but also the awareness and ability of intercultural communication. They should not only have a better understanding of the language, culture, history, geography and economy of the countries of their future

employment, but also have a strong oral expression and effective communication skills. Therefore, in the process of curriculum setting, it is suggested to give full play to the special features, fully consider the relationship between general-knowledge courses and professional courses, basic courses and backbone courses, theoretical courses and practical courses, and to effectively strengthen the construction of curriculum system.

In the process of revising the personnel cultivating program for TCSOL professionals of Heihe University in 2018, the public courses shall be strictly set up in accordance with the requirements of the National Standard, while the professional courses be set up with full consideration of the professional features and the requirements of personnel cultivation objectives. In order to meet the different employment needs of students going abroad to teach Chinese to Russia and to teach Chinese at home, the specialized courses are divided into five modules: Chinese language, Russian language, cross-cultural communication, teaching methods and traditional cultural skills training to meet the needs of students with different employment tendencies. The main courses such as Basic Russian are set up in Russian language classes, so as to meet the language requirements of teaching Chinese to Russia. At the same time, some courses such as Business Russian, Russian Vocabulary Intensive Teaching and Life Russian Conversation are offered. And these make a good language reserve for students engaged in Russian culture, tourism, trade and other work. Under the module of teaching method, besides the course of Classroom Case Analysis and Practice, the educational psychology and educational theory research courses, such as Children Education Psychology and Contemporary Russian Education, which conform to the trend of international education of Chinese language in the new period and precisely locate the country of employment, have been added, which makes talent cultivation truly reflect professional characteristics and college advantages.

C. Practice Teaching Should Depend on the Construction of Practice Base

The ability of practice and innovation is an important guarantee of the industry to make students move smoothly from colleges to society and from education to employment. Therefore, how to construct a scientific and reasonable practical teaching system that conforms to the features of the major is a problem that must be seriously considered in the construction of the major of TCSOL. In order to improve students' education and teaching skills of taking Chinese as a second language in an all-round way and to cultivate their cultural communication and intercultural communicative competence, we should consciously strengthen the cultivation of teachers' basic qualities, teaching skills of TCSOL, etiquette and psychological quality, Chinese talent and art, Chinese traditional culture, overseas teaching language, folk customs and culture of overseas working countries. Relying on the intensive training of students' professional associations and practical bases, it is suggested to combine the quality of personnel training with the demand for talents of TCSOL.

In the process of revising the personnel cultivating program of TCSOL of Heihe University in 2018, the requirements of students' professional core competence training shall be fully taken into account. Through the mutual complementation of general-knowledge courses and professional courses, compulsory courses and elective courses, theoretical courses and practical courses, it has formed a complete discipline knowledge chain and vocational ability training system to ensure the specifications and quality of personnel training. At the same time, Heihe College gives full play to its geographical advantage that it is near to Russia, making full use of the excellent Russian teachers of the School of Foreign Languages and the rich teaching resources of the Confucius Institute of Blagoveschensk State Pedagogical University. These colleges cooperate to educate people and accomplish the goal of training talents of TCSOL. In the process of ability training, it is suggested to adopt the methods of in-class practice, students' professional association activities, classroom internship of international students in the International Education Institute, participation in Russian youth's study abroad program in China, and internship of outstanding students in overseas Confucius Institutes, etc. It is necessary to adjust measures to local conditions and link together so as to make the students' professional core competence effective.

At the same time, it is suggested to strengthen the construction of practice bases and invite the industry experts to enrich the teaching staff while expanding the number and scope of practice bases. Through various kinds of class inside and outside activities, it is suggested to enhance the interaction between professional students, industry experts and international students, enriching the teaching content and strengthening the training effect. Students are encouraged to take the certificate of TCSOL so that they can fully understand the importance of TCSOL and lay a solid foundation for it.

D. To Make Full Use of Informatization in Curriculum Resource

TCSOL has its unique connotation and task. There are also higher professional ability requirements for the teachers of TCSOL than the ordinary Chinese teachers in primary and secondary schools. Under the new situation of constructing the "community with shared future for mankind", the teachers of TCSOL should not only have a solid knowledge of Chinese, but also have a profound understanding of the connotation and characteristics of Chinese culture; they should not only master a foreign language to assist classroom teaching, but also have a certain understanding of the history and national conditions of overseas countries where they work; they should not only have the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, hardship and endurance, but also have strong cross-cultural communication skills. These knowledge and skills cannot be fully mastered by limited classroom teaching or extracurricular practice. Therefore, we must strengthen the information construction of the curriculum, make full use of the high-quality network curriculum resources of the first-class universities, develop the network curriculum resources

reflecting regional characteristics and advantages, improve the students' knowledge system, and achieve the goal of characteristic education.

In the all-media era, TCSOL should also explore the "Learning + Practice" mode of "Internet + Knowledge Learning + Online Chinese Teaching Practice". On the one hand, through MOOC and other platforms, the proportion of classroom teaching is reduced, which fully return the time of thinking and understanding to students. On the other hand, it explores the possibility of long-distance online Chinese teaching by developing a one-stop industrial chain of "Production, Learning, Teaching and Research". It will let students participate in the practice of Chinese language teaching staying at home, so as to promote the cultivation of applied talents in TCSOL.

IV. CONCLUSION

At present, with the proposal of national cultural strategy and the need of social development, the cause of TCSOL has shown a good and broad prospect for development. At the same time, it also puts forward higher requirements for the specifications and quality of talent cultivation. As a local university, when learning from the training model and experience of first-class universities, how to find a characteristic development path is a subject that needs long-term thinking and research. In the process of personnel training in the major of TCSOL in local colleges and universities, it is suggested to dig deep into its characteristics, give full play of its advantages, define its objectives, orient accurately and train specially. On the basis of expanding the content and form of practical teaching and training, building its own brand characteristics is an important idea for future reform and development.

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