

Exploration on Infiltrating Ideological and Political Education into College English Teaching

Wei Liang

Public Foreign Language Teaching Department

Hunan First Normal University

Changsha, Hunan, China

Abstract-The Chinese government attached great importance on the ideological and political education on college students, which calls for the entire faculty to participate in, and college English teachers are of no exception. This paper discusses the importance of infiltrating ideological and political education into college English teaching, and then explores the approaches of the infiltration. Effectively infiltrating the ideological and political education into college English teaching is of great significance for cultivating talents with all-round development for our country.

Keywords-*the ideological and political education, college English teaching, infiltration*

I. INTRODUCTION

The 18th session of the National People's Congress has pointed that "Regarding moral education as the fundamental task of education and train builders and successors who are well developed morally, intellectual and physically, which has profound practical significance [1]. However, some people argue that the ideological and political education should be carried out by the certain teachers who teach the course. The fact is that it is a task which requires the entire faculty to work on. College English, as a required course, which involves a wide range of students covering all the majors in colleges and universities, has an important influence on college students. Therefore, college English teachers should also take the responsibility of ideological and political education. However, there is still a lack of the awareness of "ideological and political education" in English teaching, which is mainly because English teachers do not know how to combine the knowledge in textbooks with ideological and political education. In this regard, it is very necessary to discuss the importance and approaches of infiltrating ideological and political education into English teaching. The infiltration of ideological and political education is conducive to helping students establish a correct outlook on life and morality while mastering English knowledge and improve their comprehensive quality. It is beneficial for college students to understand western culture and history more objectively and confirm their sense of identity with Chinese culture. It is also helpful for college students to take the socialist core values as the discrimination standard, so that they can treat the western culture correctly and carry forward the excellent Chinese culture.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF INFILTRATING IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION INTO COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING

A. Further Enhancing the Educational Function of College English Teaching

All subjects have the function of educating people, which is more obvious in the teaching of college English. College English, as a course with the longest duration and the widest coverage in China's undergraduate education, has a profound impact on college students. Language learning should ultimately convey the transmission of one culture to another, and it must not be understood as a simple correspondence of vocabulary and sentences. Students should not only learn foreign languages, but also know foreign cultures, so that cultural learning and mastering language knowledge can complement each other. Cultural tolerance and cultural exchanges interact and promote each other, and in the process of integrating ideological and political education, establish cultural self-confidence, enhance national pride, and improve the ideological and moral quality of college students [2].

Teachers shoulder the responsibility of teaching and educating students, so they not only teach students knowledge, but also cultivate students' good moral characters and ability to distinguish right from wrong. Some negative and decadent western thoughts will damage the thoughts of college students and make them deviate from their values and moral standards. College English teaching is an important carrier of excellent cultural inheritance, which has an important educational function imperceptibly. As for college English teachers, it is necessary to carefully analyze the specific cultural phenomena encountered in teaching, clarify the differences between Chinese and Western cultures, and teach students the correct attitudes towards Chinese and Western cultures. This attitude allows us to build self-confidence in the traditional culture of our country, and distinguish the different cultural characteristics of China and the West, guide the students to correctly understand the differences between Chinese and Western cultures. Therefore, the integration of ideological and political education into college English teaching is conducive to further enhancing the educational function of college English teaching.

B. Better Optimizing College English Teaching and English Curriculum Reform

The ideological and political education of college students is an important task in universities. The ideological and political quality of teachers directly affects that of the students since students not only learn knowledge from their teachers, but also learn the moral quality from the teachers. Integrating ideological and political education into college English teaching requires the English teachers should improve their own moral quality, act as the role models for their students.

Besides, many students learnt English only for obtaining the certificates and teachers attached great importance on students' scores on tests in the past, which made English teaching become a product of the test-oriented education and an obstacle to the educational system eventually. However, with the development of economic, political and cultural integration, the society has provided more and more graduates with increasing number of opportunities involved foreign activities. Therefore, college English teaching must shift from focusing on cultivating students' English test ability to cultivating students' English language application ability and communication ability. At the same time, it should also pay attention to cultivating students' good moral quality and ideological quality to compete in fierce market competition. Integrating ideological and political education into college English is conducive to optimizing English teaching and English curriculum reform, which has a positive effect on improving the teaching and educating ability of English teachers and deepening the reform of College English curriculum.

III. THE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF INFILTRATING IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION INTO COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING

A. Some Contents of College English Teaching Can't Keep Pace with the Times

Language is the product of society and the crystallization of human history and culture. It embodies all the characteristics of human society in all aspects of social consciousness, history and culture, customs and traditions passed down from generation to generation. Different cultural backgrounds and cultural traditions have caused differences between China and the West in terms of ways of thinking, values, codes of conduct and lifestyles.

The college English textbooks contain many excellent cultural contents, some of which are about cherishing time, heroes, or strong-willed people, etc. However, the times, characters or backgrounds on which these contents are based are not advancing with the times and cannot fully stimulate students' interest in learning, which is not conducive to infiltrating the ideological and political education.

B. The Self-Awareness and Quality of English Teachers Influence the Ideological and Political Education

As a guide for ideological and moral construction, teachers must first correct their own attitudes towards ideological and political education, and resolutely implement the integration of ideological and political education into college English teaching. In the course of teaching, teachers should try our best to pay equal attention to "intellectual education" and "moral education", so that the ideological and political education can be integrated into the intellectual education [3]. The college English course is a compulsory course offered by the school and is open to all non-English major students. Therefore, English teachers are exposed to a wide range of students, and they have the ability and responsibility to shoulder the responsibility of infiltrating ideological and political education into the English class.

In the process of teaching, some English teachers would ignore or say little about the western cultural background, thus the students are not correctly guided to know foreign culture. In fact, only by understanding more foreign culture can students expand their knowledge, and know better of our own culture, and then achieve progress in learning. On the other hand, some English teachers have neglected the integration of the Chinese and western culture in the process of teaching. They only introduce the characteristics of democratic freedom and publicity advocated by the West, which makes the students think that Western culture is superior to our traditional culture. Therefore, it is not acceptable whether the excessive dependence on traditional ideological education or blindly advocating foreign culture. English teachers should change their own original teaching models, update their educational concepts, and integrate Chinese and Western cultures into language teaching. Let students learn more about Chinese and Western cultural differences while improving their morality.

C. The Teaching Pressure Restrains the Infiltration of Ideological and Political Education

In the process of English learning, teachers are expected to infiltrate appropriate ideological and political education, cultivate students' ability to think independently, enhance their sense of right and wrong, improve their moral judgment, and learn to critically absorb foreign culture while adhering to the excellent traditional Chinese culture. However, under the pressure of teaching, there is little time and energy to educate college students about ideological and political education. As a public class, English class has a large number of students. Teachers can hardly know the learning situation of every student. Under such circumstances, it is almost impossible to carry out the infiltration of ideological and political education at the same time [4]. The current teaching system has made it possible for teachers to play the role of "teaching and

educating people”, resulting in no fundamental change in the effectiveness of ideological and political education.

IV. THE APPROACHES OF INFILTRATING IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION INTO COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING

A. *Infiltrating Ideological and Political Education via Textbooks in Classroom Teaching*

As we all know, textbooks are very important in teaching. So are college English textbooks. They not only provide language materials, but also introduce the cultures of different countries to students. If used properly, it can be also the main carrier of ideological and political education. In the course of preparing lessons, the teacher should dig

deep into the educational ideas hidden in the content of the textbooks, and through various teaching methods and teaching activities, the ideas in the texts will be integrated into the teaching process. At the same time, the teacher’s world outlook and values also have an important effect on students. The communication and interaction between teachers and students is actually the collision of various values and ideas between them. Therefore, the English knowledge acquired by students in English classroom learning is ideological.

The author would like to take New horizon English Book2 (the 3rd version) as an example [5]. The content of ideological and political education is as follows (TABLE 1):

TABLE 1: THE CONTENT OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION

Unit	Topic	Text	Point for ideological and political education
1	Language in mission	A: An impressive English lesson B: The great journey of learning	Proper attitude towards learning
2	College—The ladder to success?	A: The humanities: Out of date? B: What college brings us?	Proper attitude towards college education
3	Discovery of a new life stage	A: Journey through the odyssey years B: Finding my way back home	Proper attitude towards setbacks in life
4	Dance with love	A: College sweethearts B: Saving the date	Proper attitude towards campus love
5	The money game	A: Spend or save—The students’ dilemma B: A \$3,000 dictionary	Proper attitude towards money
6	Less is more	A: Door closers, are you? B: When enough is enough	Proper attitude towards opportunity
7	Women: Making a difference	A: Women at the management level B: A proud homemaker	Proper attitude towards female
8	Human rights vs. animal rights	A: Animals or children? —A scientist’s choice B: The right to live—A dog’s account	Proper attitude towards animals

Therefore, from the above table, we can infer that the whole textbook provides a rich material for the integration of ideological and political education into the college English teaching. At the same time, it also shows that it is feasible to integrate ideological and political into college English teaching. The point is that teachers should delve into the teaching materials, optimize the ideological and political education factors contained in them, and integrate the ideological and political education into English teaching skillfully, so that a concept or an idea can be gradually cultivated and established in the hearts of college students, thus achieve a win-win situation for teaching and educating people.

English is the carrier of Western culture, which inevitably contains quintessence and dross. College students who lack certain discriminating ability easily accept some western values blindly. For example, students

Although the content of ideological and political

who have learned something about the Valentine’s Day in Western countries are likely to blindly imitate some customs of Western countries, and some of them would probably give up recognition and inheritance of traditional Chinese QiXi festival.

In this situation, what teachers should do is to have a correct understanding of how to integrate the content of English textbooks into ideological and political education, and explore the western culture involved in the textbooks, so as to introduce the western ideology and cultural background in a positive way. By giving full play to the carrier role of English teaching materials and comparing the differences between Chinese and western cultures, the essence of English teaching materials should be selected and the dross should be discarded, so that college students can form correct outlook on life, moral outlook and strong conviction in a good educational atmosphere.

education in English textbook is relatively scattered, it

involves a wide range of materials. Teachers' infiltrating ideological and political education into English teaching would help students to internalize their moral knowledge into moral emotions, so as to achieve the aim of ideological and political education.

B. Infiltrating Ideological and Political Education via Creative Activities in Class

The English teachers should change the single and boring form of teaching that has been teacher-centered in the past. Creating diversified activities in class might be a good idea. For example, teachers can organize discussions or debates in class by which students express their own ideas and opinions. It is a good way to mobilize their enthusiasm, cultivate their critical and creative thinking, develop their rational thinking ability, and enhance students' ability to distinguish right from wrong, good from evil. By talking about the current social issues at home and abroad, students can better master the English knowledge, train thinking ability and at the same time, broaden their horizon. Students can feel the influence of different cultural backgrounds on people; understand the improvement of China's international status, economic prosperity, reform of education system and so on. In this way, the ideological and political education has been integrated into the teaching naturally with the teachers' guidance and analysis. It's obviously that the effectiveness of ideological and political education is obviously stronger than the simple teaching and indoctrination. What's more, English teachers can also choose some appropriate texts with educational value for students to act them out in class, let students collect relevant materials according to the text content, and consolidate the content of ideological and political education in practice. Long-term exposure to the ideological and political education will help students turn what they've learnt into actual ethical behavior [6].

C. Infiltrating Ideological and Political Education via Diversified Activities out of Class

In addition to improving students' language learning ability and ideological and political consciousness, English teachers should also guide students to create a good foreign language environment and atmosphere. Therefore, it is extremely important to carry out a variety of educational activities out of class. Take Hunan First Normal University as an example, the Public English Teaching Department attached great importance on the out-of-class activities. They set up the English association which is in charge of diversified activities after class for students. Students can participate in English corner, the cross-culture knowledge competition, English dubbing contest, Mao Zedong's poetry reading contest, etc. These activities can help students improve their language ability, and what's more important is that they are helpful for students to distinguish between the Chinese and Western culture, to cultivate cultural awareness and to build cultural self-confidence. The diversified out-of-class activities are beneficial supplements for the English class, which also play an important part in the ideological and political education of

the college students.

V. CONCLUSION

Ideological and political education is an indispensable and important aspect in colleges and universities. College English teachers shoulder the important task of cultivating morality while carrying on the transmission of language knowledge. Integrative education can play a positive role in ideological and political education, because English teaching covers a wide range of students, which can make ideological and political education in colleges and universities have more and wider channels of transmission. Patriotism education, personality quality education, ideal and belief education, Chinese dream education and traditional culture education and so on in English course can enhance college students' ability of self-selection in face of today's complex western culture. The infiltration of college English teaching and ideological and political education is a necessary and effective measure to realize the overall development of college students, cultivate their sense of social responsibility and build up their morality.

REFERENCES

- [1] Li Xian, "The research on the pathway of integrating ideological and political education into college public English teaching". Kunming: Kunming University of Science and Technology, 2014.
- [2] Yang Rong, "The importance of moral education in college English teaching" in *Journal of Chongqing University of Science and Technology (Social Sciences Edition)*, pp.179-180, NO.1, 2008.
- [3] Li Yong-chan, "Study on the infiltration of ideological teaching in intensive English reading" in *Journal of Yan'an vocational and Technical Institute*, pp 100-101, No.4, 2009.
- [4] Meng Dan, "On the ideological and moral quality education in college English teaching", Chengdu: University of Electronic and Technology, 2006.
- [5] Zheng Shu-tang, *New Horizon English Book 2*, 3rd ed., Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2015.
- [6] Nie Ming-fang, "The exploration and practice of College English classroom teaching and moral education", Wuhan: Huazhong Normal University, 2005.