

# The Application of Flipped Class in College English Teaching

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**Abstract**—With the rapid development of modern network information technology, flipped class, which overturns the traditional classroom teaching mode, has set off a new trend in the education circle. Compared with the traditional teaching mode, the advantage of the classroom teaching model is more outstanding. Flipped class teaching method has great advantages in cultivating students' autonomy and independent thinking ability, and the introduction of this teaching method in college English class is helpful for creating a good relaxed classroom atmosphere, further improving the enthusiasm of students learning, and enhancing students' English literacy and innovation ability. This paper comprehensively introduces the concept of flipped class, the teaching advantages of flipped class and the specific application of flipped class in college English teaching, hoping to use flipped class to continuously improve the quality of English teaching.

**Keywords**—*flipped class; college English teaching; application strategy*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Against the background of vigorously promoting the reform of higher education, higher education flourishes with the application of more and more modern educational technologies. In college English teaching, the application of information technology has also promoted the development of diversified teaching mode. Flipped class as a new teaching mode, with modern education technology advantage, can effectively integrate education resources, promote efficiency of utilization of the limited class hour, highlight the students' dominant role position, and help students to effectively learn knowledge and to develop their good self-learning ability, laying the foundation for subsequent learning and development. Therefore, strengthening the research on the application of flipped class in college English teaching will be conducive to improving the classroom teaching effect and the overall quality of college English teaching in colleges and universities.

## II. THE CONCEPT OF FLIPPED CLASS

As the name suggests, flipped class is to reverse the position of the teachers and students in the process of teaching, and mainly by changing the traditional teaching mode, to make the student's dominant role works most effectively, with the teachers only as an auxiliary role in the

teaching process, guiding the students' learning, and students are initiative to learn. From the concept of flipped class, it can be seen that the teaching process of flipped class is very different from the traditional teaching mode. At the beginning of the class, the teacher should first point out the key points and difficulties in this class. In the teaching process, advanced teaching hardware is used in combination with the main knowledge points and teaching objectives, such as multimedia technology and so on, by which teachers can visualize the stiff and boring knowledge, not only to improve students' learning interest, but also improve the teaching effect. In multimedia teaching, video and pictures can be used to improve students' interest in learning, to make students grasp the key and difficult points of this lesson more intuitively. In addition, the teacher can upload the classroom teaching knowledge to Internet through the network technology, and students can consolidate the classroom knowledge after class through online learning, which not only can facilitate students' review, but can reduce teachers' workload; students also can ask questions online for the problems that they can't understand in the online learning, so an invisible communication space is created for the teachers and students. Meanwhile, teachers can also guide students to learn more in-depth knowledge in class or after class, so as to cultivate students' innovative spirit and independent learning ability.

## III. COLLEGE ENGLISH AND ITS TEACHING

College English is a public basic course in colleges and universities, which mainly cultivates learners' comprehensive language application ability and autonomous acquisition ability. As a public basic course, it is very different from other basic courses.

First of all, college English requires many types of language skills, including listening, speaking, reading and writing. As the learning content of each part has different skills for exercises, so the required form of teaching organization is also different according to the needs.

Secondly, college English has more content and less class hours. It is known that listening, speaking, reading and writing in the English teaching of most colleges and universities is divided into two modules, i.e. listening & speaking class and reading & writing class. The two modules of each unit require a total of 8 class hours. However, each

book of college English has 8 units, but only 4 class hours are allocated each week, which is not enough.

Most college students have insufficient self-control and need the supervision of teachers and class committees to finish the tasks assigned by teachers on time. Moreover, they have a low resistance to temptations from outside, such as some online games, e-books and TV series, which are the weakness of most students and lead to study distraction.

With the reform of education and teaching, schools are generally equipped with projectors or electronic whiteboards to improve the transmission efficiency, but the teaching quality has not been greatly improved, mainly because some teachers are used to the blackboard and chalk teaching method, so that after the teaching reform, it is difficult for them to adapt to the new teaching method and they continue to use the old teaching method. Although some teachers use multimedia for teaching, they just copy textbooks to multimedia courseware.

#### IV. THE TEACHING ADVANTAGES OF FLIPPED CLASS

With computer technology as the core and students' self-learning as the main form, based on textbook knowledge, flipped class teaching is purposed to promote students' all-round development and improve students' overall quality. This teaching mode has the following advantages. First, the flipped class teaching is based on network information technology, so it has rich information sources and abundant knowledge, which is conducive to the creation of teaching situations and is also beneficial to students' learning. By observation of teaching videos and the mutual interaction between students, the initiative and enthusiasm of students for learning are improved. In addition, the platform of the Internet is also conducive to individualized teaching according to each student's aptitude. Secondly, students' innovative spirit and information collection ability are cultivated through the collection of teaching materials. The teaching mode of flipped class makes students no longer only simply browse the content of the textbook in their self-study, but a deep study of the content of the textbook, which can cultivate students' awareness of question and make students learn with questions, thus improving students' thinking quality and innovation ability. In this mode of teaching, teachers mainly cultivate students' ability to acquire knowledge and guide their learning in exploration activities, but not directly provide information to them, but to. Therefore, the domination of teachers in teaching is significantly reduced, and students will have a broader free space for learning and study. Finally, the teaching mode of flipped class not only has important significance for students, but also greatly promotes the ability of the teachers in teaching. For teachers, this teaching mode requires them to provide teaching in accordance with students' aptitude, and to complete the recording of micro-videos according to the specific conditions of the students in the class and the types and characteristics of the knowledge learned, so as to obtain the best teaching results. At the same time, the students take the lectures with questions, and the teachers can give lectures in a targeted manner, which will effectively improve the quality of the college English class.

#### A. *Lack of Necessary Assistance in Information Technology*

The flipped class teaching model has extremely high requirements for the school's software facilities and hardware facilities. When teachers produce class teaching videos record and students initiatively collate knowledge in teaching video, certain hardware facilities must be provided for basic support. Additionally, the construction of online learning platform is also part of the flipped class teaching conditions of college English. Furthermore, the ability of college teachers and students to apply new technologies will also limit the development of flipped class teaching model. Therefore, to achieve seamless communication between teachers and students or between students, and to make students get more support from professional English teachers, all these problems must be solved in the reform of higher education classrooms in China.

#### B. *The Difficulties in the Implementation of Flipped Class Teaching Mode*

In the flipped class teaching mode, teachers become the supervisors and instructors of students in the independent learning of students, so teachers must have a wealth of teaching skills. First of all, they should enable to skillfully organize students to carry out independent learning and group discussion and other activities; secondly, they should enable to produce and develop English knowledge teaching videos and courseware, and use the advanced teaching methods such as Microlecture and MOOCs. These not only have extremely high requirements for teachers' teaching skills, but also increase the workload and pressure of teachers. At the same time, many students have become accustomed to the traditional passive teaching mode, have a strong dependence on teachers, can't well adapt to the flipped class teaching mode or correctly learn independently, and can't grasp the key points and difficulties of learning. In the reform of classroom teaching mode, colleges and universities must enhance the cooperation among teachers and jointly share the teaching tasks, to reduce the teachers' work pressure, effectively improve the guidance to students, and further develop students' independent learning ability. Therefore, only by improving students' autonomy in learning can the flipped class teaching mode be effectively implemented and really exert its advantages.

#### C. *The Obstruction and Breakthrough in Practical Exploration*

The flipped class teaching model appeared in the United States in 2007 and was introduced to China in 2011. At present, the research and practice of the flipped class teaching mode is still at the experimental stage, and the promotion and publicity of authoritative teaching data and teaching cases are still at a low stage of development and exploration. From the teaching concepts, discipline application, and teaching facilities, the flipped class teaching model in China is still at a relatively low level, and the core and problems of reform are mainly focused on independent video teaching. College English is a language-based liberal arts course, while the application of flipped class teaching mode in liberal arts and language teachings is not mature

enough, so further exploration must be done. In addition, due to the lack of reference for students in their learning, combined with the differences in language environment and grammar as well as other individual characteristics of each discipline, the application of flipped class teaching mode will face great challenges in college English teaching, and all these need an active exploration and breakthrough.

## V. THE APPLICATION STRATEGY OF FLIPPED CLASS IN COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING

### A. Reasonable Setting of Teaching Links

Reasonable teaching links are the key to the success of college English teaching. From the perspective of Microlecture, The flipped class subverts the traditional college English class and creatively adopts measures to detect class effects. When making micro-videos before class, teachers should selectively take the hard knowledge such as vocabulary, grammar, cultural background, etc. in this lesson to ensure that the micro-video content of 10-15 minutes is brief and full; in the internalization of knowledge in the classroom, teachers should carry out reasonable group design, specify appropriate discussion time, and formulate certain group discussion rules, so as to achieve the best classroom effect; in the final summarization and feedback, teachers should have pointed references and do not make the course too redundant. The whole learning process is mainly based on students' self-learning, and teachers mainly guide students, dissolve questions and control the rhythm of the classroom, and make a reasonable distribution of time.

### B. Optimizing Digital Resources

The micro-video production of English teaching is an important part of flipped class. Micro-video is the product of information in modern society, and to implement the flipped class, the digital equipment is required to be more advanced and perfect in the school. The quality of micro-video production, the digital teaching platform, and the coverage of wireless networks in campus will all affect the implementation of flipped class, therefore, colleges and universities must optimize digital resources as much as possible to provide teachers with a good and excellent teaching environment, and provide students with a comfortable and personalized learning environment. The network coverage is best able to meet the needs of college students for watching English micro video anytime, anywhere in campus, and only when the hardware met the requirements, will the software work better. Colleges and universities should also promote the construction of intelligent classrooms, where is equipped with advanced computers, so that English teachers can make full use of multimedia resources in the classroom to show students more vivid content, and students can also use multimedia to do a lively and interesting knowledge report.

### C. Making Clear the Key Points of Flipped Class

By observing the English teaching classes that have used flipped class mode, you will find a problem, that is, many English teacher do not correctly find the key points of

flipped class, and they often spend a lot of time and energy on making the themed-defined micro video, but actually in a wrong direction. In fact, the content of micro video should be brief and concise, no excessive attention is required to its form. The video is the core of flipped class, and the dialogue and discussion in the classroom should be more important for teachers, which require teachers to teach students really in accordance with their aptitude. Teachers should not rely too much on the form of flipped class but ignore its true meaning.

### D. Improving the Assessment Mechanism

The assessment mechanism is an important link in the systemic combination of college English teaching and flipped class, and setting of an appropriate assessment mechanism can improve students' enthusiasm for participating in college English classes. The traditional student assessment mechanism is based on the final grade as the core measure, but the grade is not the only criterion for judging students' excellence. In the flipped class, teachers should develop a dynamic variable assessment mechanism based on the student's response to the question, language skills and other traits, by which teachers can better develop a personalized teaching plan for students so that each student can make a full development. There are many extracurricular development exercises for students in the flipped classes, but teachers have no way to know the completion of the task, so teachers can ask questions in advance and require students to answer them in the next class, and take the answer as a measure; teachers can master students' learning situation according to their answers to the questions, and then make a overall assessment and correction.

## VI. CONCLUSION

From the above, as an innovative teaching mode, flipped class has been implemented in all major colleges and universities in China. Flipped class has numerous advantages, which can change the traditional passive learning of students into active learning, and plays a very important role in the reform of college English teaching. As a new type of teaching mode, flipped class pays more attention to the training in English communication. The application of flipped class in college English teaching can improve students' comprehensive English ability, and can also cultivate students' enthusiasm for learning English, which not only increases the English knowledge, but also continuously improves the students' English learning ability, providing a powerful condition for the school to cultivate applied English talents.

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