

Study on Training Mode of Compound Applied Foreign Language Talents in Higher Vocational Colleges in the Context of "the Belt and Road Initiative"*

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Abstract—On the basis of current situation of and the problems existing in foreign language talents cultivation in higher vocational colleges, in consideration of cultivation objectives of compound applied foreign language talents and the characteristics of demand for foreign language talents by "the Belt and Road Initiative" construction in the strategic context of "the Belt and Road Initiative", this paper proposes the training measures of compound applied foreign language talents. The measures are put forward from six aspects, namely making clear the objectives of compound applied foreign language talents cultivation, optimizing foreign language curriculum setting in higher vocational colleges, changing foreign language teaching methods, intensifying foreign language practice training, strengthening construction of foreign language teachers, and expanding the opening-up of education. By detailed analysis, the author aims to provide necessary talent support and think tank guarantee for "the Belt and Road Initiative" of China.

Keywords—"the Belt and Road Initiative"; higher vocational colleges; compound applied foreign language talents

I. INTRODUCTION

The strategic decision of "the Belt and Road Initiative" is a significant national strategy put forward against open economic system according to the development and changes of international situation as well as the new pattern of China's opening-up. As the important resource for China to participate in international affairs and improve global governance, foreign language talents play an important role of communication and coordination in "the Belt and Road Initiative". [1]The traditional training mode of pure language talents focusing on language skills can no longer meet the demand of foreign language talents by "the Belt and Road Initiative" construction. As a result, higher vocational colleges should construct the integrated training mode of "professional knowledge + foreign language level + cultural literacy + practical skills" for the compound applied foreign language talents based on the strategic guiding thoughts of

"the Belt and Road Initiative" and the cooperation fields involved. This is an irresistible trend of foreign language education in higher vocational colleges in conforming to a new round of overall opening-up and economic development.

II. CULTIVATION OBJECTIVES OF COMPOUND APPLIED TALENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF "THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE"

In July 2010, the State Council issued The Outline of National Medium- and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020) officially, which clearly points out that education in higher vocational colleges should focus on expanding the training scale of applied, compound and skilled talents. Compound applied foreign language talents are the international talents who can proficiently use foreign language knowledge and the professional theoretical knowledge and practical application skills of one (or more) other disciplines. [2] The cultivation objective of compound applied foreign language talents is to cultivate the international talents who have high sense of social responsibility, broad international perspective and higher management ability with integrated "professional knowledge + foreign language level + cultural literacy + practical skills".

Based on the economic and cultural cooperation fields of trade, transportation, energy, e-commerce, science and technology covered by "the Belt and Road Initiative", the cultivation mode of compound applied foreign language talents focuses on training the compound international talents who are able to combine foreign language knowledge with professional knowledge and practical skills in the fields of transportation, equipment manufacturing, trade and tourism, who have a good knowledge of international rules and are able to participate in international affairs, with solid foundation of foreign language, outstanding professional expertise, high comprehensive quality, strong practical ability and international vision.

*Fund project: 2019 Project of Distance Education Association of Liaoning Province: Research on Multicultural Construction of College English Against the Background of "the Belt and Road Initiative".

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMAND FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE TALENTS BY "THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE" CONSTRUCTION

Facing the complex and changeable economic and trade exchanges of "the Belt and Road Initiative", compound applied foreign language talents should also have the communication skills, ability to coordinate bilateral and multilateral trade relations, excellent teamwork spirit, resolution capacity of emergencies, innovative thinking and international vision keeping pace with the times that conform to international conventions besides a perfect mastery of specialized language knowledge and outstanding professional expertise. Then, they can digest the language ability with professional knowledge in foreign-related work, which will guarantee the effective and stable foreign business activities. [3]

In addition, the compound foreign language talents with high management ability are required for "the Belt and Road Initiative" construction. Foreign language talents should also have the knowledge and experience relating to management, good coordinated capacity in the aspects of communication, exchange and cooperation with enterprises besides the communication skills. The enterprises are in urgent need of the management-oriented foreign language talents who have long-term strategic vision, who are familiar with domestic and foreign markets and are able to offer advice to business operation and management based on the basic language function of communication.

In a world, the compound applied foreign language talents who have profound foreign language foundation, outstanding professional expertise, higher professional ethics, service concept, cultural quality, as well as certain business knowledge, management ability and professional application ability are needed in the context of "the Belt and Road Initiative".

IV. PROBLEMS EXISTING IN THE TRAINING MODE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TALENTS IN HIGHER VOCATIONAL COLLEGES IN THE CONTEXT OF "THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE"

A. *Unclear Positioning of Foreign Language Talents Cultivation Objectives in Higher Vocational Colleges*

Currently, the cultivation objectives of foreign language talents in higher vocational colleges in China are still limited to solid foundation of language theory and professional foreign language level; lack of the edification and cultivation of students' international vision, international feelings and global understanding; short of cultivation of professional ethics, cultural quality, business knowledge, management ability and other comprehensive qualities of the talents needed by "the Belt and Road Initiative". Talent positioning cannot satisfy the demand for foreign language talents by export-oriented economy under the background of "the Belt and Road Initiative".

B. *Unreasonable Foreign Language Curriculum Setting in Higher Vocational Colleges*

At present, most of the foreign language courses in higher vocational colleges in China are reading, grammar, writing and other basic language knowledge, which place particular emphasis on theory, resulting in the lack of practicalness, systematicness and applicability. There is few knowledge penetration of professional ethics, cultural quality, management knowledge and experience, information-based office means and ability to handle foreign communication affairs relating to international strategy of "the Belt and Road Initiative", and few practical courses that introduce the politics, economics, culture, geography, history and religion of countries along the Belt and Road, cultivate students' intercultural communication competence, and expand their international vision are opened.

C. *Backward Teaching Method of Foreign Language in Higher Vocational Colleges*

Information-based teaching hasn't been totally realized in some of higher vocational colleges in China, particularly the courses involving politics, economy, culture, history and religion of countries along the "the Belt and Road Initiative" are still centered by theoretical teaching, and there is a lack of information and situational teaching means, such as micro-course, MOOC, used to guide students to comprehend and experience the language, culture, customs and cultural heritage of countries along "the Belt and Road".

D. *The Practical Teaching of Foreign Language in Higher Vocational Colleges Based on School-enterprise Cooperation Needs to Be Improved*

Higher vocational colleges should attach importance to reinforcing communication and cooperation with enterprises relating to "the Belt and Road Initiative", and pay attention to the frontier development trend of trade, transportation, finance, e-commerce and other industries under the strategy of "the Belt and Road Initiative" as well as the characteristics of demand for foreign language talents. Talent training program should be adjusted timely according to the opening-up strategy of "the Belt and Road Initiative" and the demand for talents by related enterprises, to strengthen the matching degree of ability structure of compound applied foreign language talents with the employment position. Moreover, at present, many higher vocational colleges are short of software for teaching and practice as well as practice and training environment inside and outside the school, such as the functional and digital audio-visual classroom, and there is a lack of associated, systematic and applied practical teaching.

E. *Weak Teacher Resource of Foreign Language in Higher Vocational Colleges*

Most teachers in higher vocational colleges have solid foundation of theoretical knowledge, but they have insufficient knowledge of foreign-related trade, foreign-related law and other professional knowledge. As a result, their ability to digest language knowledge and specific professional knowledge of transportation, commerce and

trade, tourism involved in "the Belt and Road Initiative" strategy as well as to impart the knowledge needs to be reinforced.

V. TRAINING MODE OF COMPOUND APPLIED FOREIGN LANGUAGE TALENTS

A. *Making Clear the Objectives of Compound Applied Foreign Language Talents Cultivation*

The cultivation objectives of compound applied talents are to cultivate the practical talents who have good physical and mental quality, social morality and professional ethics, international vision and international convention, solid foundation of language theory and compound knowledge system with integrated "professional knowledge + foreign language level + cultural literacy + practical skills". Higher vocational colleges should abandon the pure language-based talent cultivation objective and take the innovative, managerial, compound and practical talents who serve the implementation of "the Belt and Road Initiative" as the cultivation orientation in combination with their own school-running reality, the physical and mental development characteristics of skill-oriented talents, development planning of "the Belt and Road Initiative" and talent demand of related enterprises.

B. *Optimizing Foreign Language Curriculum Setting in Higher Vocational Colleges*

First of all, higher vocational colleges should set up the elementary and professional courses reasonably, integrate and optimize foreign language teaching resources using modern information means, construct foreign language online quality courses and micro-courses vigorously, with the supplementation of foreign language teaching content by rain classroom, cloud class, micro-class, MOOC and other online and offline methods.

Second, it is also very important to construct general education, which expands and deepens foreign language education and focuses on integration, internalization and extension of knowledge in different fields and categories. General education attaches importance to basic, integrated, comprehensive and extensive knowledge, and it can broaden students' international vision, cultivate their sense of social responsibility, establish and improve their personality, enhance the comprehensive quality of foreign talents in professional ethics, cultural quality, service awareness and management ability. [4] Specifically, it contains the courses of sociology and psychology, which are used to strengthen students' ability of coordinating multilateral relation, ability of handling emergencies and their teamwork spirit in "the Belt and Road Initiative" exchanges and cooperation. The courses of practical writing and career planning can also be opened, to sublimate writing ability to cross-cultural communication skills under the guidance of international conventions and global thinking; to sublimate listening and speaking ability to critical and expressive ability; to sublimate reading ability to information acquisition, processing and re-creation ability, so as to satisfy the demand for information office means and strong foreign language

writing ability of foreign language compound applied talents by "the Belt and Road Initiative".

Last, higher vocational colleges should also set up the minor courses to intensify the compulsory courses and optional courses relating to the specialty, integrate the contents in the fields of trade, infrastructure, e-commerce, law, science and technology, culture included by "the Belt and Road Initiative", establish the flexible inter-disciplinary optional course mechanism, and carry out assessment in the form of credit management. Higher vocational colleges should integrate the knowledge of language skill courses with that of professional courses, and construct the curriculum system with cultivation of language application ability as the key point and supplemented by other inter-disciplinary knowledge and general education.

C. *Changing Foreign Language Teaching Methods in Higher Vocational Colleges*

Teachers in higher vocational colleges should promote the integration of knowledge in the fields of trade, transportation, e-commerce, energy, science and technology, culture included by "the Belt and Road Initiative" with basic knowledge and skills of foreign language by further using information-based teaching methods. The teachers should achieve the individualized, layered and interactive teaching model through the learning methods of Internet + teaching, MOOC micro-class, inverted classroom, electronic courseware informatization. Moreover, they should take initiative to develop online practical teaching platform, integrate and optimize online English teaching resources, and promote deep integration of modern education means with science and technology. [5] The teachers can make use of network interaction environment and collaborative learning practice resources based on the advantage of breaking through limitation of time and space by network teaching practice platform, so that students can appreciate the geographic style, local customs and practices and cultural deposits of counties along the "the Belt and Road" whenever and wherever possible.

D. *Intensifying Foreign Language Practice Training in Higher Vocational Colleges*

Compound applied foreign language talents are the personnel who grasp foreign language knowledge proficiently as well as professional theoretical knowledge and practical application skills of one (or more) other disciplines. As a result, importance should be attached to the training of practical application skills to cultivate compound applied foreign language talents.

First of all, higher vocational colleges should construct foreign language practice and training base vigorously, organize field training of students regularly, and invite experts of the industry to give their reviews and guidance in the form of special lecture and joint research. In addition, the cultivation of compound applied foreign language talents requires higher vocational colleges to establish school-enterprise cooperative education mechanism. Higher vocational colleges should establish long-term cooperative

and mutually beneficial relationship with export-oriented enterprises; strengthen deep cooperation of enterprises in the fields of trade, transportation, finance and e-commerce covered by "the Belt and Road Initiative"; promote the policy of "two-way access"; allow students to "go out" and enterprises to "walk in"; pay attention to characteristics of demand for foreign language talents by export-oriented economy in the context of "the Belt and Road Initiative"; determine talent cultivation objectives and curriculum system setting, adjust talent cultivation program and develop teaching resources according to opening-up and economic development characteristics as well as demand for talents by related enterprises under "the Belt and Road Initiative".

Second, diversified language and cultural exchange activities, for example, English speech contest, debate competition, can be carried out to enhance students' comprehensive language application ability, ability of being flexible and responsive and logical thinking ability. The foreign language extracurricular activities, such as "foreign cultural festival", "international moot court", and "foreign language newspaper of international politics" can be organized to enhance the comprehensive quality of compound applied foreign language talents in professional ethics, cultural quality, business knowledge, service awareness and management ability in the context of "the Belt and Road Initiative".

E. Strengthening Construction of Foreign Language Teachers in Higher Vocational Colleges

The precondition for higher vocational colleges to cultivate the compound applied talents who support the strategic deployment of "the Belt and Road Initiative" is to have the foreign language teachers who are highly skilled with one specialty and multiple skills and who have both the foreign language knowledge and skills and inter-disciplinary knowledge background as well as creation ability, management ability and professional application ability.

Foreign language teachers of higher vocational colleges should improve their own foreign language level through academic forum, e-learning, study in and out of school, training at home and abroad. In addition, they should pay close attention to the frontier trends of political, economic and cultural development of countries along "the Belt and Road", and attach importance to accumulation of inter-disciplinary knowledge of the fields of trade, transportation, science and technology and culture covered by "the Belt and Road Initiative". Foreign language teachers should improve their own practical application ability through school-enterprise cooperation, and achieve seamless connection of teachers' teaching level, scientific research ability and practice in enterprise by means of foreign language topic and practice project under school-enterprise cooperation. Moreover, they should adhere to the system of foreign language teachers to practice at the frontline in the enterprise, so as to achieve the goal of teaching, learning and practice growing together, improve foreign language structure, extend foreign language knowledge system, and enhance the practicability of foreign language knowledge. Furthermore, higher vocational colleges should introduce the mechanism

of competing for the position of teacher and competitive flow; increase the introduction of external teacher resources, particularly the part-time foreign language teachers with cultural deposits and professional background of countries along "the Belt and Road", to improve foreign language teacher structure and enhance overall quality of foreign language teachers.

F. Expanding the Opening-up of Education

It is required by the Outline of National Medium- and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020) that, "colleges should expand mutual recognition of academic degree between government, support exchange of teachers and students, mutual recognition of credits as well as mutual and joint conferment of academic degrees between domestic and foreign colleges". [5] According to this policy, the compound applied foreign language talents serving "the Belt and Road Initiative" construction can be cultivated by way of education opening-up and student exchanges strengthening. Specifically, students from countries along "the Belt and Road" can study in China and Chinese students can study in countries along "the Belt and Road". The method can be "2+2" co-cultivation adopting the credit system and mutually recognizing the graduation certificate issued by the other side, or the short-term exchange similar to summer camp, or short-term practice in the overseas enterprises of countries along "the Belt and Road", with the assessment through internship report and filing by credits. Students can appreciate the language, culture, way of thinking and code of conduct of countries along "the Belt and Road" by way of increasing opening-up and student exchanges, which is conducive to cultivation of students' comprehensive language application ability and cross-cultural communication ability; broadening their international vision and feeling; improving their ability of handling international affairs in communication and cooperation with countries along "the Belt and Road" and their international competitiveness.

VI. CONCLUSION

As the important strategic resource, foreign language talents play an irreplaceable effect in "the Belt and Road Initiative". Higher vocational colleges should seize the strategic opportunity of "the Belt and Road Initiative" to carry out targeted reform in the aspects of cultivation objectives of foreign language talents, curriculum setting, teaching method, practice training and construction of teaching staff, to improve the ability of compound applied foreign language talents effectively and to provide necessary talent support for such forward-looking international strategy.

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