

On the Construction of “Curriculum Ideological and Political Education” in College English

Hongli Gao*

Faculty of Humanities and Foreign Languages; Xi'an University of Technology, 710048; Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China

* Corresponding author. Email: gaohl@xaut.edu.cn

ABSTRACT

As an important concept and principle to guide the teaching of various disciplines in Chinese universities, curriculum ideological and political education has become a hot research topic in academic circles. College English, one of the most popular key general courses in Chinese universities, has become an important platform for ideological and political education so that it has a unique advantage of ideological and political construction. Based on the theory of integrating ideological and political education into courses and the cultural connotation of college English courses, this paper expounds and analyzes the necessity and feasibility of implementing ideological and political education in college English course, and explores the practical path of ideological and political education in college English teaching, hoping to improve students' cultural self-confidence so as to facilitate students' overall growth as well as realize the fundamental goal of “enhancing morality and fostering talents”.

Keywords: *Curriculum ideological and political education, College English teaching, Cultural self-confidence.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the National Conference on Ideological and political work in colleges was held, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed the fundamental requirement of “persisting in moral education and cultivating people as the central link, running ideological and political work through the whole process of education and teaching, thus realizing the whole process and all-round education” [1], which prompted college educators to reflect on the mode of Ideological and political education. College English, as a compulsory public basic course and a very important window for college students to contact and understand western culture, which involves a wide range of learners, has a great impact on the long-term development of college students and the overall situation of the country so as to create opportunities and conditions for exploring the integration of Ideological and political education into college English teaching reform.

As a public basic course with strong ideological attribute, there exists the phenomenon of indifference of native culture identification and absence of ideological and political education in college English teaching and its “ideological and political” role is far from being

played. In the process of classroom teaching, English teachers often limit the curriculum objectives to the teaching of language and the improvement of their skills. In view of this, it is of great guiding significance to study how to integrate the mode of “ideological and political education” into College English classroom, tapping the moral elements of College English curriculum, which realize the creative transformation from “ideological and political course” to “curriculum ideological and political. Meanwhile, the methods of integrating ideological and political education into the curriculum need to be enriched and kept pace with the times. “Curriculum ideology and politics” is a new program and mission facing all kinds of courses in universities in China. It is not a specific course, but a kind of educational theory and thinking mode [2].

2. THE NECESSITY AND FEASIBILITY OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN COLLEGE ENGLISH

First of all, college English course is a public basic course reaching a wide range of students in universities. Second, college English courses have more periods and last longer. College English courses can reach twice a

week and last for two academic years, that is, four semesters. Therefore, students' humanistic and political qualities can be cultivated through integrating ideological and political education into college English teaching for a long time [3]. The characteristics of college English curriculum also make English teachers have more advantages in ideological and political education for students.

China attaches great importance to the ideological and political education of college students, and has issued relevant policy documents for many times. However, for a long time, the main channel and position of ideological and political education in universities is the ideological and political theory teaching. Influenced by the traditional education mode and evaluation system, teachers and students generally pay attention to the transfer of knowledge and skills and despise the cultivation of humanistic quality and ideological and political quality, college English is no exception. Western culture, thoughts and values will inevitably be involved in English curriculum and the collision of the differences between China and the West may make students face confusion in their choice of ideas and values. Therefore, it is necessary to implement college English "curriculum ideological and political". The humanistic nature of college English course means that it undertakes the task of cultivating people's comprehensive quality and developing them in an all-round way [4].

2.1. Necessity of Implement College English Curriculum Ideological Education

First of all, for a long time, college students generally do not care about ideological and political education and are not interested in ideological and political course teaching which directly lead students to deviation of outlook on life and values with weak sense of social responsibility and lack of professional ethics. Secondly, today's college students talk about British and American culture, but they know nothing about the excellent traditional Chinese culture. For example, students can speak English fluently about Christmas, Easter and Valentine's day in the west, but they can't talk about Chinese Spring Festival, Mid Autumn Festival and Chinese Valentine's day in English; they can blurt out hamburgers, pizza and coffee, but they can't express steamed bread and tea in English. College students have weak sense of Chinese culture and lack of pride of national culture. Therefore, in order to enhance the ideological and political awareness of college students, it is necessary to practice ideological and political education in College English.

2.2. Feasibility of Ideological and Political Education in College English

One of the important tasks of English teaching is to cultivate English learners' cultural consciousness and train them to introduce China and Chinese culture to the world so as to strengthen their awareness of national culture. However, nowadays college English teachers pay too much attention to the grammar learning of the target language, neglecting dissemination and promotion of Chinese culture without confidence in Chinese culture and the infiltration of moral education into students' language learning. Moreover, College English course contains a lot of invisible ideological and political education contents, such as excellent traditional culture, environmental protection concept and patriotic feelings and so on. In view of this, in the classroom teaching, the teacher can dig into the moral education factors in the teaching materials, carefully design the teaching process along with adapting the way of natural infiltration, and purposefully carry out moral education for students, which can improve students' ideological understanding to a certain extent and establish a correct outlook on life and values. Therefore, it is feasible to practice ideological and political education in College English.

2.3. The Mission of "Ideological and Political Courses" in College English

"Cultural confidence is a kind of basic force which is very profound and lasting in the development of a nation." A high degree of cultural confidence is the foundation of cultural prosperity and national rejuvenation. There is no contradiction between learning western culture and cultivating young students' cultural self-confidence. In the process of learning English, English teachers lead young students to analyze and interpret the western culture comprehensively. Through the comparison between Chinese and Western culture, we can guide young students to continuously enhance their self-awareness and improve their ideological awareness and cultural identity, making college students clearly understand the excellence of Chinese culture so as to be full of self-confidence and pride in their own national culture.

3. THE CULTIVATION OF SELF-CONFIDENCE IN NATIONAL CULTURE THROUGH IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN COLLEGE ENGLISH

The content of College English textbooks is mainly based on western countries. If we only lead the students to learn the contents of the teaching materials, students will inevitably be affected by the western culture and

ideology in the teaching materials, which will lead them to deviate from the socialist core values, and even blindly worship the west, while ignoring the core cultural values of their own country. Therefore, college English education should not only broaden students' international vision and cultivate their English thinking, but also shape students into socialist builders and successors with Chinese feelings. Of course, the integration of Chinese ideological and political elements into College English teaching is not to negate the ideological value of the West. They can also go together and complement each other to cultivate students' dialectical thinking ability and cultural confidence. Teachers can combine the explanation of knowledge points with Chinese cultural values, the content of college English textbooks involving politics, history, geography, economy, education and so on, it is easy for students to combine its topics and the corresponding Chinese cultural knowledge.

3.1. The Scientific and Systematic Principles Should be Adhered in College English Curriculum

At present, there are two kinds of calls for "de foreign language" and "English learning" in China. Optimizing English curriculum has become a hot issue in the development of English teaching. To realize the "Ideological and political" function of College English, we should further strengthen the positive penetration of traditional culture, ideology and social system in the content setting. We should not only import advanced western culture, but also export excellent Chinese culture so as to promote students to accept ideological and political education in different language environments and improve their cultural confidence. The allocation of class hours should be arranged according to the individual situation of students and the educational purpose. In a word, the optimization of English curriculum should start from all aspects of English teaching and do a good job of overall planning.

3.2. The Penetration of Ideological and Political Education Should be Improved in College English Teaching

It seems complicated and difficult to improve the penetration of Ideological and political education in college English teaching. Teachers are required to pay attention to the analysis of cultural differences in English teaching and use the course content to carry out ideological and political education in time so as to guide and cultivate students. On the one hand, teachers should strive to stimulate students' interest in learning so that students can have good ability to apply knowledge in English whether they regard English learning as a means of language learning or a way of cultural transmission, thus making English curriculum serve as the forefront of

Ideological and political education. On the other hand, teachers should strengthen ideological and political guidance. The content of English teaching should be based on specific stories, examples and translations of current texts. The Chinese stories should be told in English, including certain political, economic, cultural and institutional backgrounds. In the process of explaining these contents, teachers should, on the basis of respecting the objective facts, compare and analyze the superiority of China's social system and the national culture in breadth and profundity so as to improve students' cultural confidence and reduce their resistance to ideological and political education.

3.3. The Cultivation of Students' Cultural Confidence should be Considered as the Priority of Ideological and Political Education in College English

College English is a course set up to promote students' all-round development. To improve the relevance between College English course and ideological and political education, it is necessary to cultivate students' cultural self-confidence. Cultural cognition is the basis of cultural self-confidence, so students must strengthen their understanding of Chinese culture. It should be noted that the scope of culture is relatively wide, including both traditional national culture and rich modern culture, and modern culture involving China's social system, political civilization, economic mode and other aspects. College English curriculum should reflect the cultural contents of different periods so that students can establish a systematic cultural cognition in the English learning. On this basis, we should highlight the characteristics and advantages of Chinese culture, strengthening students' sense of identity with Chinese culture and helping students establish cultural self-confidence so as to promote the comprehensive and coordinated development of students.

4. EFFECTIVE WAYS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN COLLEGE ENGLISH

4.1. Teachers should Actively Change the Teaching Concept of Ideological and Political Education

College English teachers should deeply understand the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and Xi Jinping's thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era [5], constantly strengthening their study of Ideological and political education. They should actively participate in the series of teaching research on Ideological and political education of College English courses and

constantly improve their ideological and political ability of curriculum education through continuous self-study. Teachers' educational methods and teaching ideas will directly affect students' outlook on life. For example, English teachers are improving their ability to spread national culture, making students feel the charm of Chinese traditional culture, and stimulate students' interest in cultural exchange through English. Therefore, English teachers should make use of the advantages of language to cultivate students' good quality, mining the cultural genes and educational points implied in the curriculum as well as transforming them into socialist core values and integrating spiritual guidance of ideal and belief into language learning. Through Combination the ideological and political quality with ability in knowledge acceptance of students in our school, we can achieve the goal of both moral education and intellectual education.

4.2. Excavate the Ideological and Political Education Elements of the Teaching Materials in class.

In the process of teaching, teachers teach students sentence patterns, grammar, morphology and so on, according to the specific teaching situation, teachers excavate the ideological and political education elements in the teaching materials so that students can improve their political quality while learning English knowledge. For example, in Horizon College English Book 1, the title of unit 1 is Toward a Bright Future for All. This paper is a speech made by a university president to freshmen at the beginning of the new semester. In the speech, the president of the University gave his own suggestions on how to use various resources, how to choose courses and how to face the unpleasant experience in the university. These suggestions are very helpful to the freshmen. In the last part of the speech, the headmaster reminds students to realize what the responsibility is as a college student. What responsibilities should college students shoulder? Students will find the last three questions in the seventh paragraph of the text: what knowledge will you acquire? What passes will you discover? What will you do to build a strong and prosperous future for the generations. An excellent word about responsibility from our president Xi Jinping's are given to students. "A nation will prosper only when its young people thrive; a country will be full of hope and have a great tomorrow only when its younger generations have ideals, ability, and a strong sense of responsibility. The Chinese Dream is a dream about history, the present, and the future. It is a dream of our generation, but even more, a dream of the younger generations. The Chinese Dream of National Rejuvenation will be realized ultimately through the endeavours of young people, generation by generation" At this time, teachers need to guide students to think about how to cultivate and establish rational

patriotism, how to inherit and carry forward Chinese traditional culture and how to contribute to the society through some social practice and volunteer work. Students complete the project after class and display and exchange in class, which further deepen the understanding of their own responsibility, and guide students to establish a correct "sense of responsibility".

4.3. Provide Students with the Opportunity Offered by Various Multimedia to Receive Ideological and Political Education during Extra-curricular Time

Due to the limited classroom time, teachers can make full use of extra-curricular time to increase students' opportunities for ideological and political education in various forms. With the help of a variety of multimedia to improve the awareness of ideological and political education, for example, through the same media to enjoy traditional Chinese cultural English films. The teacher should choose the film and he better clips to show to the students, such as Hua Mulan and Kung Fu Panda. Before or after watching the film, there are some problems related to ideological and political education. In this way, students can be inspired to refer to the relevant culture. Schools should create a good atmosphere of Ideological and political education. As the main position of students' study and life, universities should publicize and post ideological and political education in every corner. In today's rapid development of information age, various Internet platforms have emerged, QQ chat tools, wechat and other multimedia software are also springing up. In the process of teaching, College English teachers should make full use of modern communication means such as computer client, mobile app so that students can perceive the world in a small space, which enriches students' extracurricular knowledge, cultivates students' sentiment and expands college English related knowledge.

5. CONCLUSION

The combination of college English course and ideological and political elements makes it a carrier of cultural transmission and even spiritual inheritance. Of course, how to integrate ideological and political education into college English curriculum more effectively and how not to copy mechanically still need teachers' continuous in-depth research and take each language class as a platform to guide students' positive development. College English teachers in the new era should take the initiative to improve their ideological and political awareness and the ability of ideological and political education, taking the responsibility to foster builders and successors of socialism who owe the confidence of their own culture and the feelings of China.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was financially supported by Xi'an University of Technology (Grant No.XJY2046).

REFERENCES

- [1] Xi Jinping. Speech at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work of Colleges and Universities [N]. People's Daily. 2016-12-9.
- [2] Shen Yi. Research on effective Ways of integrating curriculum thought and politics into College English [J]. *Education and Culture* 2019(4):121-122.
- [3] Wang Shouren. College English Teaching Guide [J]. *Research on College Foreign Language Teaching*, 2018(00):7.
- [4] Li Ping, WANG Yu-liang, Wu Mei-yu, Wang Xiao-hong. Feasibility Study on the extension of college English Course to Curriculum Ideology and Politics [J]. *Journal of Huaihai Institute of Technology (Humanities and Social Sciences edition)*, 2018, 16(10):137-140.