

# Cultivation of College Students' Innovation Thinking in English Under the Idea of Wisdom Education

Qiaotong Zhang

*School of Humanities, Communication University of China, Beijing, China 100024*

*\*Corresponding author. Email: zhangqiaotong@cuc.edu.cn*

## ABSTRACT

The gradual development of college English teaching from traditional education to wisdom education is an inevitable requirement of an era of informatization and intelligence. Under the background of wisdom education and in combination with innovation thinking and its performance characteristics, this paper discusses how teachers should transform traditional teaching thinking and models in college English teaching, strengthen the cultivation of college students' innovation thinking in English, and open up a new path for college English teaching to adapt to the requirements for talent cultivation in a new era.

**Keywords:** *Education informatization, wisdom education, college English, innovation thinking*

With the development of emerging information technology, artificial intelligence has infiltrated into every aspect of the social life. In contrast to traditional education, a shift is occurring in the education idea in the era of artificial intelligence and the traditional education is gradually being changed into wisdom education. In the process of wisdom education, more emphasis should be put on the cultivation of talents' abilities. Especially since our country proposed the innovation idea, people have paid more and more attention to the innovation ability of talents. Therefore, the teaching work of colleges and universities needs to be carried out closely around innovation. Although many colleges and universities are now actively implementing innovation and entrepreneurship courses, the formation of innovation ability involves many aspects of students' study and life. Therefore, innovation teaching in other aspects needs to be strengthened in the process of college education [1]. For example, the cultivation of college students' English innovation ability should be strengthened, so that contemporary college students can have innovation thinking, and form an open English thinking to better serve the society. Under the background of wisdom education and in combination with basic connotation and performance characteristics of innovation thinking, this paper attempts to explore how teachers should transform traditional teaching thinking and models in college English teaching, create a new cultivation system, and guide college students to form a good innovation ability, thereby strengthening the cultivation of college students' innovation thinking in English.

## 1. BASIC CONNOTATION AND MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF WISDOM EDUCATION AND INNOVATION THINKING

Wisdom education is that based on modern information technology theories, rationally design teaching contents and objectives with the help of science and technology and makes the form of teaching intelligent, thus realizing intelligent management, teaching and service in colleges and universities. This is a brand-new wisdom education model that relies heavily on the wisdom information system, so it is called wisdom education. Under the background of such informatization, education and teaching take on new characteristics. Firstly, at the technical level, the teaching technology is relatively advanced and teachers can efficiently carry out teaching activities by use of multimedia information teaching methods as well as auxiliary tools such as teaching video in combination with the characteristics of students, make full use of learning time, seize learning opportunities, and pay more attention to the shaping of students' moral quality accomplishment. Secondly, at the resource level, teachers can use information technology to search for teaching materials or learning materials related to courses within the network platform, and apply them to classroom teaching, or cultivate students' ability to search the information outside the classroom and enhance their independent learning ability. This is very important for students. This is because the cultivation of innovation thinking is one of the educational objectives required under the wisdom education cultivation model. For contemporary college students, the cultivation of innovation ability is very important. In the future employment and work, most jobs will be completed through artificial intelligence. In the process of gradual

replacement of mechanical work with artificial intelligence, the high-intelligence job demands are gradually expanding. Therefore, innovation ability has become one of the criteria for measuring talents [2].

In the college education, the special attention is paid to the cultivation of students' innovation thinking. Innovation thinking is the result of a new thinking activity. Its purpose is to expand cognition, use the memory and knowledge currently stored in the brain to understand new phenomena and develop new knowledge fields. This process is called "inquiry". The result of inquiry is innovation. People use the ability to discover the world, so as to develop more and more things that serve the survival of mankind. As for innovation thinking itself, people are required to have good perceptual skill, divergent thinking ability, and strong comprehension ability. It concentrates concrete thinking and abstract thinking, and is a combination of multiple dimensions. This ability is inherent for human beings, but under the conventional living conditions, this characteristic is gradually lost. The purpose of education is to maintain this characteristic of human beings, enable them to have the innovation ability, and form a good innovation thinking to serve the development of the world.

## **2. STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE COLLEGE STUDENTS' ABILITY OF INNOVATION THINKING**

### ***2.1. Establish Questions and Guide the Interest, Stimulate Students' Curiosity and Thirst for Knowledge, and Cultivate Thinking Ability***

The teaching of college English is different from the teaching of other learning stages. College students have certain basic skills of English, but their English foundations are different. This is related to the students' own learning habits, and also related to the teaching methods of teachers. Therefore, to highlight the cultivation of students' innovation thinking in college English teaching, teachers must first make students interested in English learning, and then infiltrate the cultivation conception of innovation thinking with the deepening of the course content. For example, before the class starts, the teacher can play a video related to the course content, so that students can feel a relaxed English teaching environment [3]. The teacher can ask questions in combination with the video and the course content subsequently, so that students can participate in the classroom. Then the teacher introduces the teaching content and carries out teaching. But in the teaching process, the teacher doesn't explain knowledge purely, but makes the students explore the answers to questions independently through question orientation. With the deepening of students' inquiry, teachers can set up questions of different difficulties to continue their

thinking, or can also give appropriate prompts, so that students' thinking can be stretched to find the best answer. When the "Basketball originated in Massachusetts, USA. It was created by James Naismith in December 21, 1891. It is the core event of the Olympic Games. It is a body centered and antagonistic sport" statement is explained, the teacher can use virtual reality technology to bring students into the communication situation related to basketball, so that students can feel the charm of basketball immersively, and learn relevant knowledge and language expression.

### ***2.2. Develop an Innovation Thinking Based on the Idea of Wisdom Education***

As the course content progresses, to highlight the application of innovation idea in teaching, teachers need to guide students to form innovation thinking based on the idea of wisdom education starting from their own consciousness of innovation. When teachers have a consciousness of innovation, they can put forward new teaching methods in combination with new teaching ideas, stimulate students' innovation thinking, and make students perform better in the classroom [4]. Of course, the teaching of these contents is based on the basic teaching objectives. Although we require highlighting the cultivation of innovation thinking in English teaching, we can't place too much emphasis on the form. To achieve the cultivation of innovation thinking, if we completely ignore the richness of the course content and restrict students to the form, such innovation classrooms remain in name only and open innovation thinking can't be really developed. This is always destructive to students. Both teachers and students can participate in the simulated communication environment, and play a role of some characters, so that students can solve many practical problems in the process of contact when accompanied and guided by teachers. For example, in the business English teaching classroom of ESP teaching, in the simulated business situations, the students play a role of the company's customer manager to receive customers from the United States, and set out to design the corresponding situation tasks in airport greetings, accommodation arrangement, company visitings, business talks, etc., so that students can get the opportunity to practice language communication in a simulated situation and can also learn about the relevant knowledge in the actual business environment in practice, thus laying a foundation for cultivation of future work abilities. Therefore, teachers need to focus on updating teaching ideas and developing new education models based on the idea of wisdom education, so as to achieve two-way cultivation of knowledge and abilities.

### ***2.3. The Innovation Method of Wisdom Education Focuses on Individualized Teaching***

One of the characteristics of innovation is "new". The so-called new is different from others, unusual, and different

from the existing things. The new of wisdom education manifests in the difference, and individual difference among students is the source of innovation. In the past test-oriented teaching, students were cultivated in a unified manner. This teaching method ignores the individual difference among students, so it was greatly hindered in the specific implementation process and the teaching effect of wisdom education was often not as good as we expect. To cultivate students' innovation thinking, firstly, teachers should innovate teaching methods, abandon traditional teaching measures, adopt the strategy of individualized teaching, and cultivate students individually [5]. Although we require students to have standardized skills, we cannot obliterate students' individual development demands. Therefore, we should emphasize targeted teaching in the wisdom education teaching. For example, when learning the fragments of *The Wizard of Oz*, teachers can allow students to choose the most touching pictures according to their preferences, and then explain the reasons. In this process, the teacher doesn't adopt a unified question to guide them, but adopts an open requirement to stimulate students' personality development, which is extremely important for students to form the innovation ability.

#### ***2.4. Relying on a Wisdom Platform, Create a Good Atmosphere and Encourage Innovation Thinking***

In the process of cultivating English innovation ability, positive comments in the classroom can play a larger auxiliary function. In general, students' thinking will be more active, and their initiative and innovation ability will be enhanced in a positive and cheerful learning atmosphere. Therefore, relying on a wisdom platform, we should encourage relaxed and positive teaching scenarios and require teachers to take positive evaluations to create a good learning atmosphere. For example, when the answers provided by students in the classroom don't correspond to the reference ones, teachers should not immediately respond negatively, but first understand the way students think about questions, follow their thinking to search for answers, and guide them to uncover vulnerabilities in their thinking and then tactfully correct their answers. In addition, "Really? Are you sure?" and other questioning statements can't be adopted to evaluate them, which makes it easier for students to have self-doubt and cause their inner self-confidence. In the process of forming the innovation ability, self-confidence is very important. Many students now lack innovative ability, which is necessarily related to their lack of self-confidence. We propose a positive evaluation method, one of which purposes is to encourage students, enhance their self-confidence, let them recognize their own thinking, and then boldly make innovations to receive more new results [6]. One of the most important qualities of scientific research is the courage to question and innovate, so self-confidence is very important to students.

#### ***2.5. Carry Out the Critical Reading and Writing in Virtue of Wisdom Education and Encourage Students to Break Their Mindset***

Develop interesting courses by means of modern technology to stimulate students' thinking and break the fixed thinking model, thus generating sparks of innovation. For example, in the teaching of college English, the traditional method of reading and writing teaching is that teachers repeat what the book says. If teachers can carry out reading and writing teaching by use of digital network resources, firstly the formal innovation will give students a new experience, thus breaking through their mindset. Secondly, the use of a large number of electronic resources can help students cite the classics and stretch their thinking. With their intensive study, they can obtain a new cognition. Finally, in writing and reading, students can break through the mindset of three elements (people, places, and events), open up new thinking models, and make their articles more exciting. This is the positive effect of innovation thinking on their comprehensive abilities.

#### ***2.6. Relying on Wisdom Education, Practice Critical Listening and Speaking and Improve Students' Abilities of Questioning and Innovation Thinking***

The difficulty of English teaching is the listening and speaking teaching. In the past teaching, teachers searched for listening materials and oral practice materials, and made students practice blindly with a mindset of practice making perfect. Although this method is certainly advisable, the final training effect of students is poor. If students can get rid of this exercise without thinking and organize their own language for oral practice themselves, English dialogues between students and students and between teachers and students can be held to exercise their thinking in communication, then this practical teaching model can help students gain more and form the abilities of questioning and innovation.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

To sum up, it is difficult to cultivate students' English innovation ability in universities, but under the background of wisdom education, if universities develop new teaching models, make full use of modern technical resources, create a good learning environment, and guide students to conduct independent inquiry in every detail, students' innovation thinking can be gradually formed in the accumulated potential influence. Wisdom education has brought many advantages to teaching. With these advantages, we must give full play to its effectiveness. We should not only provide basic knowledge teaching, but also pay more attention to the cultivation of students'

abilities. Letting students achieve new innovation ability under the new education vision, so as to realize the core value of education, is the requirement of society for education. College English teachers should pay attention to it. Once students' English ability is innovatively developed, this has practical significance to the development of the country. Therefore, college students' English innovation ability must be cultivated.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Min ZHENG, Yang LIU. Research on Cultivation of Critical Thinking and Innovation Ability of College Students in English Teaching [J]. *The Science Education Article Collects*, 2018 (1): 165-166.
- [2] Xiaolin LIU, Shiyin GONG, Huijun YU, et al. Research on the Importance and Ways of Cultivation of Critical Thinking of College Students [J]. *Education and Teaching Forum*, 2015 (44): 261-262.
- [3] Hua CUI. Innovation Education-Times Connotation of Quality-oriented Education [J]. *Journal of Jiamusi Education Institute*, 2000 (3): 14-15.
- [4] Shiyun YANG. An Exploratory Research about the Integration of Critical Thinking and College English Teaching [J]. *Journal of Higher Education*, 2015 (23): 97-98.
- [5] Siwei CHONG, Xiaohua LIU. Research on the Cultivation Model of Critical Thinking in College English Teaching [J]. *Journal of Jiamusi Vocational Institute*, 2015 (3): 102, 104.
- [6] Ji LU, Zilun ZHOU. Learning Strategy Teaching and Cultivation of Students' Innovation Ability -- A New Perspective of Research on Reform of English Teaching in Regular Institutions of Higher Learning [J]. *Shandong Foreign Languages Teaching Journal*, 2008 (6): 74-77.