

Research on the Evaluation System of Postgraduate English Education in the New Era

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ABSTRACT

To meet the requirements of postgraduate English education evaluation in the new era. Based on the China Standards of English Language Ability (CSE), summarising all kinds of English education evaluation test for graduate students through the dimensions of evaluation modules, assessment contents and assessment forms. This paper takes the tests as example, tries to analyse the similarities and differences, then puts forward the scheme of postgraduate English education evaluation system, and provides a reference for ensuring the quality of postgraduate English evaluation.

Keywords: *China Standards of English Language Ability (CSE), postgraduate English education, evaluation system*

1. INTRODUCTION

As an important task in the construction of the Foreign Language Proficiency Assessment system, the Development of the CSE has made great progress, and was officially released by the Ministry of Education and the National Language Commission in February 2018. As the first English proficiency standard for Chinese learners, CSE is based on empirical research and fully considering the needs of each learning stage, divides the English language proficiency of Chinese learners into nine levels, which are included in three stages: basic, improved and proficient. Learners are divided into elementary stage, intermediate stage and advanced stage. At present, the CSE has been successfully aligned with some overseas tests, such as the IELTS, TOEFL [1]. It is not hard to see that the evaluation of English ability in the new era is undergoing a transformation and development from "English test" to "ability strengthen". The CSE redefines the English ability of English learners and users through "three stages and nine levels", and gives a comprehensive, clear and detailed description of the ability characteristics of each level [2].

The English education of postgraduate is an important part of training postgraduate with comprehensive quality. With the comprehensive promotion of the application of CSE, the English education evaluation of postgraduate is facing the inevitable trend of upgrading and reform. How to comprehensively evaluate the English ability of

postgraduate, accurately detect their weak points, help them carry out special exercises, consolidate and improve their English ability is particularly important.

At present, there are many kinds of English proficiency tests for postgraduates with different standards. Postgraduates spend a lot of time preparing for the exam, but it is difficult to get a comprehensive ability test result, which consumes a lot of manpower and material resources. Therefore, it is very important to establish an English education evaluation system for postgraduates in the new era, to evaluate their English ability scientifically and efficiently [3] [4] [5].

2. CSE

From 1933 to 1942, Ralph Taylor completed the "eight-year research", which is a milestone in the history of educational evaluation, marking the formal establishment of educational evaluation discipline. At present, the general trend of foreign educational evaluation research is from target selection to stimulate learning [6]. Evaluation will cover the whole process of teaching, and strive to achieve the integration of "teaching-learning-evaluation". There are three major international standard systems for English education, including the American Common Core Curriculum Standards (CCSS), the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the Global English testing standard (GSE) independently developed by Pearson Education Group [7] [8] [9].

In recent years, domestic scholars have been carrying out relevant researches on the CSE and have made significant contributions. In 2012, Wang Shuhua developed a set of the Scale of Chinese Students' English Comprehension ability based on the taxonomy of educational objectives. In 2015, Professor Liu Jianda explained the basic idea of developing CSE in China. In 2017, Professor He Lianzhen explored the horizontal parameter framework and vertical typical characteristics of listening descriptors in the structure of the CSE [10].

The CSE consists of seven parts: scope, category and definition, ability grade, ability description framework, general ability table, sub-item ability table and self-evaluation scale. Taking competency description framework as an example, it includes: expression, comprehension, translation, pragmatic competence, language knowledge and language use strategy. There is a further detailed breakdown of specific capabilities, as shown in Figure 1.

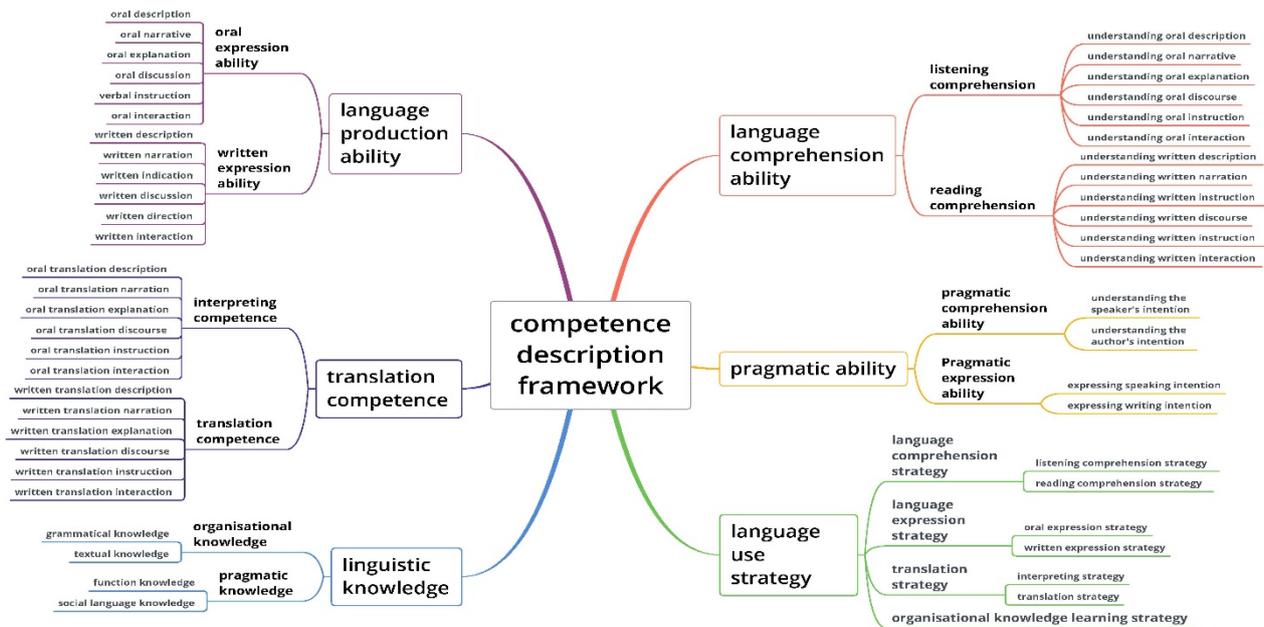


Figure 1 Capability description framework of CSE

Although the CSE provides a scientific and standardized description of English proficiency, the alignment with current English education assessment examination is still in its infancy due to the various kind of tests. To train graduate students' English ability scientifically, it is very important to integrate and analyse the educational evaluation methods [11].

3. EVALUATION OF POSTGRADUATE ENGLISH EDUCATION

The evaluation of postgraduate English education can be divided into three categories: school-based English test, social test and overseas test. Take the postgraduate of Zhejiang University as an example, to analyse the various kinds of English assessments that postgraduate have taken through the dimensions of evaluation modules, contents and forms.

3.1 School-based English Tests

School-based English test includes the English foundation examination and the Evaluation of English Ability Improvement.

3.1.1 The English Foundation Examination

Mainly self-study, and computer examination is adopted. the Evaluation system as Table1. shown.

Table 1. The Evaluation system

modules	contents	forms
listening	dialogue and paragraph	choice question
vocabulary	ability to apply knowledge	choice question
reading	reading comprehension	choice question
cloze	pragmatic competence	choice question

3.1.2 The Evaluation of English Ability Improvement

The postgraduates participate in the corresponding classroom teaching, including the practice of academic English speech skills, and oral English communication based on science, technology, education, economy, environment and other topics. The curriculum aims to test students' English academic communication ability. The evaluation form is that each student prepares an English

speech according to the selected topic, shows it with PPT, and answers questions in English.

3.2 The Social Tests

The social tests include: College English Test (CET), Public English Test System (PETS), etc. Take CET as an example for analysis, which is divided into written and oral test. The CET tests students' comprehensive English skills, including listening, reading, writing, translation and oral expression.

3.2.1 CET Band 4 and Band 6

Aiming to measure the English ability of college students objectively and accurately. CET Band 4 and Band 6 have the largest coverage among college students. In Zhejiang University, most of the postgraduate take the CET band 6 which held twice a year. The structure of the CET is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The question types

modules	contents		forms
writing	writing		passage writing
listening	Band 4	Band 6	
	short news	conversation	choice question
	conversation	paragraph	choice question
	paragraph	Lecture	choice question
reading	vocabulary comprehension		blank filling
	long-passage reading		match
	reading in depth		choice question
translation	Chinese-English translation		paragraph translation

3.2.2 Oral Test of CET Band 4 and Band 6

The speaking test is administered by computer twice a year. Candidates in pairs, randomly divided into groups, with the answer. The oral test system includes self-introduction, human-computer interaction, short essay reading, personal statement, two-person interaction and so on.

3.3 The Overseas Tests

The overseas tests include TOEFL, IELTS, BEC and so on. Takes TOEFL as an example, which aimed at measuring non-native English speakers' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. The Test

modules are reading, listening, speaking and writing, and the total length is about 4 hours.

In general, the current evaluation of English ability mainly focuses on writing, listening, reading and speaking modules, while insufficient attention to the translation modules, language use strategies and other modules. Although some tests have been aligned with the CSE, it is still difficult to comprehensively evaluate the English ability of examinees because of the fixed module. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt multiple English evaluation compensation mechanism in English education evaluation system.

4. CONSTRUCTION OF POSTGRADUATE ENGLISH EDUCATION EVALUATION SYSTEM

Based on the CSE, carrying out the Construction of Postgraduate English Education Evaluation System. On the one hand, it can evaluate the English ability of graduate students scientifically, and on the other hand, it can save manpower and material resources. Relieve the heavy and repetitive examination pressure of postgraduate.

4.1 The Basic Thought

Based on the ability description framework of the CSE, try to classify and analyse the English education evaluation tests involved by postgraduate, and to constructs a comprehensive and diversified graduate English education evaluation system, so that various tests can complement each other and evaluate the English ability of graduate students comprehensively and objectively.

4.2 The Overall Layout

The school should try to establish the database of English education evaluation for postgraduate. Combined with the CSE, the system determines the English ability level of postgraduates. Students choose the corresponding courses according to their ability basis and learning needs, and use the school-based English test resource database to set up various English course test programs reasonably, to evaluate students' learning effects and ability changes. By making full use of the compensation mechanism of multiple English tests, the evaluation results are updated and stored in the evaluation database, to comprehensively and objectively evaluate the English proficiency of graduate students. The overall layout is shown in Figure 2:

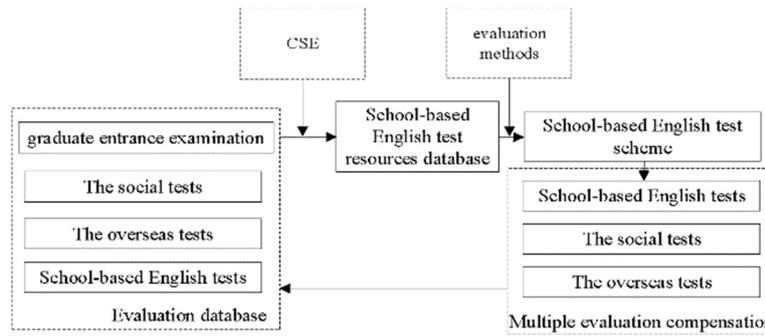


Figure 2 The Overall Layout of Evaluation System

4.3 The Key Contents

① Establishing the English education evaluation database for postgraduates. Drawing the personal English proficiency map based on the English scores of the graduate entrance examination and the scores of all kinds of English evaluation tests in the pre-learning stage. Individualized and specialized English course plans are available based on the CSE, such as translation, speech, writing and other courses. Postgraduates can choose the course according to their own ability level and usage needs.

② Improving the school-based English test system. Combined with national education examination, social tests, as well as overseas tests, establishing postgraduate English school-based test system, the form and content should have differentiation, the repeated test contents should be avoided. School-based examination should be with the national education tests, social tests and overseas tests as a useful supplement to each other. To build multivariate testing evaluation compensation mechanism, strive for accurate and objective evaluation results.

③ Improving the informatization level of evaluation process. Make full use of technology to accurately and objectively evaluate the English proficiency of postgraduates, achieving the goal of data standardized, structure modularized and resource sharable. scientifically analyse the evaluation results and timely release them to students, and improve the evaluation efficiency.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the scale, this paper comprehensively analyses all kinds of English assessment tests for postgraduate, constructs the evaluation system of English education for postgraduate, and puts forward the overall layout and key contents. By using the compensation mechanism of multiple test evaluation, the English ability level of graduate students is evaluated, and the ability weakness is diagnosed accurately. Setting up personalized teaching programs, to comprehensively

improve their English ability level and help postgraduates with their scientific research and work.

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