

Analyze the Relationship between English Language Thinking and English Thinking Ability

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Abstract. Language is major means of communication and expression for people, which could be difference due to country or region. Even in different places in the same area, the language expression is not the same. And yet the language thinking is interlinked as of it is performance of modern civilization and reflection of the language attributes. Generally speaking, thinking ability would not be changed by nation, but thinking mode would be effected by ethnic differences. In recent years, many scholars have carried out study on English language thinking, especially the relationship between English language thinking and English thinking ability. In this paper, we mainly analyze relevant data based on investigation of English thinking ability of English major students in China to get conclusions.

0. Introduction

Language thinking is a very new concept. Previously, the scholars basically pay attention to relationship between language and thought and ignore integration of language and thought when they study language and thought. Along with the progress of time and deepening of research, language thinking has become a new research direction and put forward in English language studies. This paper, focusing on analysis of relationship between English language thinking and English thinking ability, will bring certain enlightenment for domestic English language teaching and learning.

1. Study characteristic of English language thinking

English language thinking is habitual thinking in English-language countries, which belongs to a thinking mechanism during application of English-language. While characteristic of English language thinking refers to a unique characteristics formed in application of English language thinking. In general, it mainly includes abstraction, connectivity and expressivity.

1.1 Abstraction of English language thinking

Abstraction refers to cognition of objective things by human mind as well as their own feelings and experiences. Abstract nouns are the form of abstraction in language. Abstract in the English language includes several particular characteristics like concise referential meaning, high frequency of use as well as broad scope of application.

Abstraction is the most outstanding characteristic in English language thinking. The concept is derived from combined objective things with subjective feeling as well as relationship among all things, which could be expressed by language form. In English language, nominatum of concept has high-frequency applications, widely usage scope and a relatively large number of quantities. Except in the form of nouns, the verb that reflects behavior can also be transformed into abstract nouns to embody nominatum of concept. For example, the verb “walk” in the following sentence was used as a noun. “Every morning she would go to the park for a walk”

1.2 Connectivity of English language thinking

Connectivity refers to linguistic units are linked to each other under the action of language thinking to become a meaningful utterance. The connectivity in English language includes anaphora and cataphora.

In linguistics, anaphora is the use of words, phrases or statements to repeat the content of the previously mentioned. That is to say, the mentioned topics can be expressed as a word or phrase or one statement.

Cataphora, a form of English language thinking, can be divided into two forms, i.e. general cataphora and landmark cataphora. The former usually use a word or phrase to replace the following words or phrases, while the latter not only use words or phrases with general meaning to replace following words or statements, but also as general designation for the following statements. Thus it likes a road sign to lead the direction of the discourse. For example, "What three words would you use to describe Canada?" This sentence requires students to use three words to describe Canada, which could help teacher to say the next section.

1.3 Expressivity of English language thinking

Expressivity of English language thinking refers to process multiple sets of information reasonably and put background information, cultural information, common-sense information and other non-instant message to be invisible and only have to directly express instant information highlights in statements. Instant information in here refers to the information expressed directly and instantly by words in statements. For example, "Which country or place would you like to visit most?" that needs to students explain why they like this city. Through this question, it deepens students' description of the cultural, historical background and other information.

Due to close relationship between expressivity of English language thinking and regional culture system, it is obvious to find that English language thinking has a characteristic which made regional characteristic cultural information of English-speaking country be invisible. A student from non-English-language country like China will have language understanding mistakes caused by lack of necessary culture information. For the English learners in China, they may not be connected the instant information with non-instant information immediately due to lack of background information, common sense information and cultural information of English-speaking country. As a result, they will face language understanding mistakes. In other words, the content can be translated into their native language, but the real meaning of words would not available. It is very common that it put culture characteristics of English-speaking country be invisible in application of English language thinking.

Language thinking usually puts non-instant information or other relevant background information, common sense knowledge and cultural information be invisible, when it tries to express some information. So the written language we saw is only one part of actual meaning and the rest meaning you could be read from lines. Expressivity of language thinking includes clearly expression and implicit presentation.

2. Cultivate English Language Thinking

English language thinking is particularly important for English learners. Good language thinking ability could improve English language learning ability and application ability. Hence, many scholars begin to study how to effective cultivate English language thinking ability. As a critical factor in application of English language competence, English language thinking ability determines whether you can use English correct and success.

2.1 To stimulate and develop observation ability

Observation is a mental activity which carried out by people to know things around with certain purpose through their senses. So observation is premise of understanding the world and is also a prerequisite to master various skills. Stimulate the observation ability of daily life can effectively increase amount of information and better use English language thinking in order to improve English language thinking ability and study and use English language. Good ability of observation can make us understand objective world deeper and more comprehensive to obtain effective knowledge information.

2.2 Cultivate effective memory ability

Memory is a process of accumulation of knowledge. We can consolidate the knowledge through memory. Good memory provides necessary information required in language learning for us. So does in daily life and learning process. Through remember hidden information of social background, social knowledge in application of English-language, it can effective help us to develop English language thinking ability and to use English better.

2.3 Cultivate creative thinking ability

Creative thinking is a special thinking mode of English language thinking with initiative and innovation as character, which is different from general sense of habitual thinking. When we develop English language thinking ability, we should abandon original habitual thinking. The use of creative thinking can help us to better understand expression of English language and operation mode of English language thinking.

To train the imagination

In general, imagination is more important than knowledge and it occupies an important position in use of English language thinking ability. Rich imaginations can imitate specific environment. Thus, when you are in real environment, you can play English language thinking ability better and understand application of English language. This is so called language environment. It is also conceivable that good imagination can be more favorable to learn and use English language knowledge

3. Status of English Language Thinking Ability of Chinese English Learners

Language thinking ability is a new research area, which constantly put forward in process of learning English. Now it has become main research direction of modern scholars who study language applications. We can see that English language thinking has important position in English language learning. And a person's English language thinking ability decides whether successfully use English language thinking to complete learning. Only Chinese English learners develop good English language thinking ability can improve level of English learning and better apply and understand English.

For Chinese student, there is a certain positive relationship between English language thinking and English language skills. English language thinking ability directly affects performance of students' English language skills, which is a kind of quantitative index of English language thinking that is an important indicator for composition of the English language. By this taken, it is important for student to master and apply English language thinking ability.

Currently, Chinese students in school-days are still in the stage of examination-oriented education and focus on school record and ignore English language thinking training, which is key reason for weak capacity of English language thinking. These problems have huge impact on language study and impede the development of English skills, which bring some troubles for students to adapt to new era. If there is no good English language thinking cultivation environment and little knowledge of background information, social knowledge and cultural background and other hidden information, students will have bad performance of English language thinking ability and application of English language. In order to better learn English language, learners shall not only focus on linguistic form and linguistic performance, but also well known on language information of English-speaking country and cultivate English language thinking ability.

There is a positive relationship between English language thinking and English language skills. The learners should have strong English language thinking in order to improve English skills. Developing English language thinking skills is an indispensable important segment in learning English, which offers certain enlightenment for modern school teaching English. Therefore, we should focus on cultivating English language thinking.

4. Language Usage Mode Refers to Emotional Expression Affected by Thinking Mode

Language and thinking mode both belongs to culture field without affect by region, but it is affected by national environment and social ideas and other factors in essence. Differences of traditional philosophy between China and the West directly affect thinking mode. Chinese philosophy focuses on synthesis, induction and connotation, while western philosophy pays attention to detail. Integrality that emphasized by Chinese traditional philosophy has a profound in representation of language. In other words, Chinese are good at integral thinking; while westerners are skill in individual thinking. Given this variation, we should put a high value on English

language thinking and develop learners' English language thinking ability.

The differences in language thinking between China and West bring troubles for Chinese English learners. Only well understand social background, cultural background and common-sense knowledge of English-speaking country can improve Chinese students' English language thinking mode. English language thinking ability is a kind of ability of English language learning.

5. Conclusion

Language thinking is a new research area. We should pay more attention on cultivating of English language thinking ability. There is a certain positive relationship between English language thinking and English language skills. English language thinking ability directly affects performance of students' English language skills, which is a kind of quantitative index of English language thinking that is an important indicator for composition of the English language. This paper states characteristic of English language thinking, cultivating English language thinking and status of English language thinking ability of Chinese English learners in detail, which illustrates that good English language thinking skills by good English language thinking.

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