

Full English Immersion Teaching of Translation and Rotation of University Physics

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Abstract: This paper applies full English immersion teaching on translation and rotation of university physics, discusses graphic method, comparison method and discussion method of full English immersion teaching, and shows that the full English immersion teaching is an effective one in teaching of translation and rotation of university physics.

Introduction

University physics is a public basic course in universities of science and technology, involved into mechanics, thermodynamics, electromagnetism, optics and atomic physics, etc, and lays the foundation for students to study further in the future. At present the world get closer and closer. In order to adapt to the new situation of China's accession to the WTO, and to meet the international challenges, the Ministry of Education of China pointed out that "Bilingual teaching is our important way for higher education to adapt to the trend of economic globalization, to develop export-oriented talents with the consciousness of the international cooperation and ability of international communication and competition." [1], various universities gradually carried out bilingual teaching [2] and the full English teaching to meet the strong demand for high-quality comprehensive talents. This paper carried out the study of immersion English teaching on the translation and rotation of university physics.

Immersion Teaching

The government of Canada supported the French immersion program in northern area to promote the fusion and cultural exchange between English and French during the 1960s. Immersion teaching is a teaching method that students are placed in a second language environment, major courses are taught in second language, and students naturally gain the ability of second language from the professional courses taught in second language. It has the following characteristics [3-5]

- (1) The second language is the medium of teaching.
- (2) Immersion courses and native language courses won't conflict.
- (3) Immersion teaching supports native language.
- (4) Immersion teaching has the function of bilingual teaching.
- (5) Immersion teaching is usually confined to the classroom.
- (6) Students should have the same or similar level in second language.
- (7) Teacher should have the ability of bilingual teaching.
- (8) Class culture is still of the native culture

Because immersion teaching has training roles for gaining foreign language ability and professional ability, it was introduced to North America and wider region during 1970s and 1980s, and was also studied in China [6-8].

Full English Immersion Teaching of Translation and Rotation

University physics involves mechanics, thermodynamics, electromagnetism, optics and atomic physics, etc[9-12]. Objects are different, systems are also different, and professional English vocabulary is multifarious. The requirements for full English teaching are that coursewares are written in English, teachers teach in English, students ask questions in English, teachers answer questions in English, students do their homework in English and take the final exam in English. That is why English are widely used in full English teaching for university physics teaching. Because students' native languages are Chinese, not English, the students' logical thinking was conducted in Chinese, the effect of the full English teaching depends on whether teachers can give clear illustration of university physics knowledge in English, whether students can understand the knowledge. How to make full English teaching of university physics with high quality? Immersion England teaching is an effective way. Let the student immersed in the English environment who forget Chinese temporarily and think in English ASAP, students can follow up the full England teaching, ask, answer and discuss in English, even though they are not familiar with English vocabulary of various parts of university physics.

Translation and rotation are two important parts of mechanics of university physics, the goal to teach the two parts is to make the students understand theory and application of translation and rotation. Translation is usually taught first, then rotation. To enhance the effect of immersion English teaching is through illustration, comparison and discussion.

Full English immersion teaching of translation and rotation by graphics is to use tools such as multimedia, to enhance the features of graphics and text, to clearly illustrate the concepts and essence of translation and rotation in English, to help students to create direct sensation and to understand relevant English vocabulary of translation and rotation.

Translation and rotation are two different movements. Translation refers that an object moves along a straight line or curved one shown in Fig.1 which expresses clearly movement direction, velocity, and mass of an object. Rotation refers that an object turns about an axis shown as Fig.2 which expresses clearly rotational axis, angular velocity and rotational direction, etc.

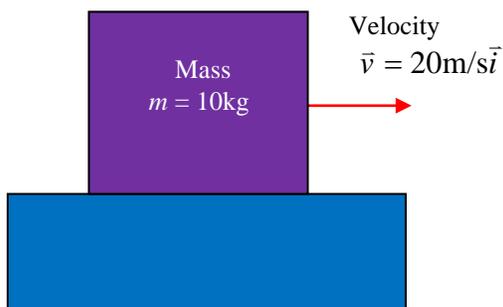


Fig.1 Translation

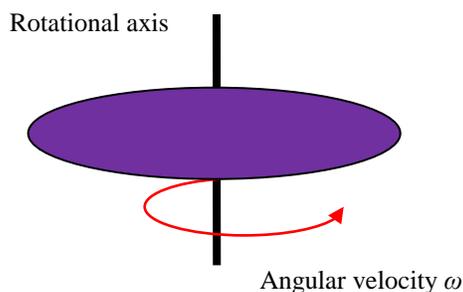


Fig.2 Rotation

Full English immersion teaching of translation and rotation by comparison is to compare the same and differences between translation and rotation, to let students understand the principles, to be familiar with professional English vocabulary, and grasp knowledge key points of these two movements.

Translation and rotation are two different movements. Translation is easier to understand, and rotation is more difficult to grasp. Translation is usually taught first, then rotation in full English teaching of university physics. How to let students grasp knowledge points of rotation during full English teaching of it? Though translation and rotation are two different movements, students are immersed in full English teaching of translation and rotation, compare the same and difference of translation and rotation, understand their moving principles, get familiar with relevant professional English vocabulary, and grasp their knowledge key points.

Table 1 is the comparison between translation and rotation. It can be seen from Table 1 that physical quantities are one-to-one correspondence. Students can grasp knowledge points of translation and rotation.

Table 1 Comparison between translation and rotation

Translation	Rotation
Position \vec{r}	Angular position θ
Displacement $d\vec{r}$	Angular displacement $d\theta$
Time t	Time t
Velocity $\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$	Angular velocity $\omega = \frac{d\theta}{dt}$
Acceleration $\vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt}$	Angular acceleration $\alpha = \frac{d\omega}{dt}$
Mass m	Rotation inertia $I = \sum_i m_i r_i^2$
Force \vec{F}	Torque $\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F}$
Linear momentum $\vec{P} = m\vec{v}$	Angular Momentum $\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$
Linear momentum $\vec{P} = \sum_i \vec{p}_i$	Angular Momentum $L = \sum_i \vec{l}_i$
Linear momentum $\vec{P} = M\vec{v}_{\text{com}}$	Angular Momentum $L = I\omega$
Newton's Second Law $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \frac{d\vec{P}}{dt}$	Newton's Second Law $\vec{\tau}_{\text{net}} = \frac{d\vec{L}}{dt}$
Conservation of linear momentum If $\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = 0 \rightarrow \vec{P}$ is conserved	Conservation of angular momentum If $\vec{\tau}_{\text{net}} = 0 \rightarrow \vec{L}$ is conserved

Full English immersion teaching of translation and rotation by discussion is to preset discussion topics of translation and rotation, let students be immersed in English and discuss these topics in order to promote the effect of full English teaching, and know how the students understand about translation and rotation.

Because university physics involves mechanics, thermodynamics, electromagnetism, optics and atomic physics, and is usually finished within two semesters with 96 or 128 teaching hours, it is not suitable to have long hour discussion.

Discussion topic of translation and rotation depends on discussion hour. Simple discussion topic can be set for 15 minutes long discussion, such as “Please discuss the reason that changes the translation movement”, or “Please discuss the reason that changes the rotational movement”, etc. More difficult discussion topics can be set for 30 minutes discussion, such as “Please discuss the precession of a gyroscope”, etc. Students will gain oral communication ability and understand deeply about translation and rotation through discussion. Teachers can participate into the discussion to know how students understand translation and rotation and give more clear illustration about translation and rotation.

Summary

Translation and rotation are important topics of mechanic dynamics of university physics. Teaching effect can be promoted through who English immersion teaching by graphics, comparison and discussion, which is affirmed by students of Grade 2012, Grade 2013 and Grade 2014 of Full English Classes of Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering, South China University of Technology.

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