

Exploitation of Primary School Students' Multiple Intelligences through Application of Game and Music in English Teaching

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Abstract—To exploit students' multiple intelligences is most important in the primary school education reformations in China. In order to stimulate students' enthusiasm of learning English, teachers try to apply game and music methods into English class. Games and music methods can not only inspire students' enthusiasm of learning, eliminate fatigue, but also promote the students' ability to use language and make the students' intelligences developed all round.

Keywords—multiple intelligences theory; game and music methods; primary school students; English teaching and learning

I. INTRODUCTION

Intelligence has been defined in many different ways such as in terms of one's capacity for logic, abstract thought, understanding, self-awareness, communication, learning, emotional knowledge, memory, planning, creativity and problem solving. Based on a lot experimental studies and research, Gardner (1999) proposed the multiple intelligences theory. Gardner claimed that people were not born with all of the intelligence and intelligence can be developed throughout life. According to Gardner, each individual can have the following seven intelligences: linguistic intelligence, mathematical or logical skills, body-kinesthetic intelligence, visual-spatial intelligence, musical intelligence, interpersonal intelligence, and intrapersonal intelligence [1]. Because each child possesses these basic intelligences in varying degrees, teachers would adjust their teaching methods to improve the efficiency of English teaching in primary school according to intelligence differences among individuals. Teachers could apply game and music teaching methods in English classes to mobilize students enthusiasm in English learning as much as possible and stimulate pupils to develop the multiple intelligences in potential [2].

II. THE APPLICATION OF GAME AND MUSIC METHODS IN ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING IN CHINESE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A. Rules of the Game and Music Teaching

Since games and music teaching can make great difference in English learning, teachers should put the rules of these methods into consideration to make pupils learn knowledge efficiently.

1) Adapting to physical and psychological characteristics of pupils

Games and music teaching in primary school should be selected or designed according to the physical and psychological characteristics of pupils. In this stage, the pupils are in rapid growth and their cognition is changed from concrete image to abstract logical thinking. Pupils' emotions and moods are often rich, inquiring and imaginable. Therefore, English teachers should consider students' physical and psychological characteristics when choosing and designing teaching materials and process, and then design the activities that are really suitable for pupils. For example, the games should be designed easy and helpful for children and should not be difficult or dangerous for pupils to finish; and the music should be catchy and positive for them to appreciate[3][4].

2) providing suitable teaching materials for students.

It's better for teachers to choose familiar materials for students as the theme of the games and music, which makes it easier for pupils to have a keen interest in learning. The materials for games and music in primary school should be selected or designed according to the environment around students. So when they take part in the teaching process, they would become more active and cooperated with teachers to complete the task efficiently. For example, teachers can use fable stories, animated movies, and classical children's songs as teaching materials to complete the teaching task [5].

3) Related to teaching contents and teaching goals

Games and music teaching should be closely related to teaching contents, key points and relevant knowledge.

Teachers should fully understand the keys and difficulties before preparing the games and music materials and designing the teaching process. For example, when the theme in one lesson is about Christmas Day, the teacher can design the activities related to Christmas Day, such as role-playing of Santa Claus, the songs about Christmas Day.

B. Importance of Game and Music in Primary School's English Teaching

Game is an inherent demand of pupils' physical development and is also an important means of mental development. Game is a kind of effective method which can turn the boring phenomena into vivid and interesting one that students are willing to accept in learning. Game teaching is based on children's psychological characteristics, namely, being curious, playful, active, aggressive, and longing for praise, etc.

Game teaching is very useful in Chinese primary school English Teaching. It is generally in the form of group work, which allows students to jointly pursue a very important issue, or create a harmony and cooperating atmosphere. Every pupil has specific responsibility and task in game-playing. During the process of game, the students can develop different skills such as speaking, performing and cooperation [4].

Music is the most enjoyable in our lives. Music is actually another form of language that helps human communicate and exchange information. Seldom can human live without music because it not only contains sounds but also signals which can help people release their deepest feelings in heart and also can bring comfort and excitement to people. Music shares the beauty and attracts people into another world [6].

As far as children's psychological character concerned, students will feel relaxed happy, satisfied and have excited emotion when they are singing songs with different tune. Furthermore, according to psychological mechanism of human being, the left hemisphere of the brain is good at managing words, mathematics, logic and the like. The right hemisphere of the brain is the backbone of memory, language, musical melody and imitation. Using songs is to combine abstract thinking function of the left hemisphere with visual thinking function of the right hemisphere. For this reason, it is very effective to use songs in teaching English [7].

It is of great significance to apply appropriate game and music in English classes in primary schools: First, these methods can adjust classroom atmosphere, stimulate students' interest in learning, and improve students' motivation; second, game and music teaching can not only eliminate the psychological pressure of students, but also reduce their learning load; third, these methods can improve Pupils' memory and comprehensive ability of applying knowledge. In the following part, the importance of games and music will be demonstrated with some examples respectively.

1) Improving students' interpersonal and understanding intelligences

Game is a kind of group cooperation. The pupils work together to complete the assignment. For example, the game of "Guessing" may not only let the Pupils communicate in real situations, but also let them enjoy the pleasure of success in the activities without worrying making mistakes. at the same time, their listening and speaking skills are developed in the Guessing game [8].

For example, in unit 3(in PEP Primary English Book for Grade 4) [9], the topic is what's your job? The teacher designed the game process to let the students guess what his job was: First, teacher told students the topic is about the occupation. Then some pictures of people in different occupation were presented to the students. At this time the students could remember the occupation words roughly. Next, Teacher asked eight pupils to come to the podium to perform the occupations--- teacher, driver, doctor, policeman, salesperson, cook, and farmer. The rest of the students need to guess what kind of occupation they were performing. This game turned the boring language knowledge into interesting English words learning. During the process of game, the students fully developed the different intelligences such as memory, communication and cooperation.

2) Improving the students' speaking and memorizing intelligences

A piece of song is a useful tool for teaching English pronunciation. The right choice of song is important. We may ask students pay much attention to the pronunciation of certain words. English songs cover a wide range of subjects and cultural information. When we sing rhythmic English songs again and again, our spoken English become more and more fluent.

English is constituted by vocabulary, some words are difficult to memorize and can be forgotten easily. If teachers let these words link with English songs, learners will recite them easily, Let 's take a piece of song as the example: Sunday Morning: Sunday Morning, Sunday Morning, Sunday Morning; Everybody, everybody, everybody is busy; Flying a kite, learning English, playing with a dog, Riding a bike, drawing pictures, painting a house. These words are very difficult to memorize for children, but when they learn them in a song, they will remember it quickly and easily. Because English songs have graceful melody and bright rhythm, they want to sing it again and again. Furthermore, a scientific research indicates, the efficiency of teaching with music is 2.17 -2.50 times than that of teaching without music. Therefore, English songs play a very important role in improving the capability of memorizing [7].

3) Improving pupils' logical and intrapersonal intelligences

In primary's English teaching, some teachers rely on the traditional teaching method—spoon-feeding, which leads to students' poor understanding the knowledge. While game can make the knowledge become more specific with common sense of life. The children's abilities of logic and self-adjustment are strengthened in the game.

For example, the theme is What time is it? in learning Unit 2(in PEP Primary English for Grade 4). The game process is: Firstly, the teacher told the pupils the sentences pattern: what time is it? It's.... o'clock It's time to According to the contents of this class, teacher designed the game like this: The first step is to group the students. Each group has 12 students and they surround a circle which is like a clock. Then, students asked what time is it? Teacher said its 12 o'clock. Hearing the number 12, the one who represented number 12 stood up and others still stayed down. Teacher continued the second question of what should we do at 12?; students answered it's time to have lunch. So Teacher said some other numbers to practice the sentences and the practice was proceeded continuously.

This example illustrated that game can make the knowledge combined with common sense of life and make the content become more specific and interesting. Besides, the children's abilities of logic and self-adjustment are strengthened at the same time.

4) Improving Students' body-kinaesthetic and musical intelligences

English songs for children are simple with strong sense of rhythm. So it is very easy and suitable for children to learn. At the same time, songs are full of knowledge and entertainment.

In one English class, the teaching goal for the teacher was to explain the key words jump, walk, run, sleep and the sentence: What are you doing?. Then teacher put these words and sentence into a familiar song-- rabbit. Students followed teacher to sing songs. According to the songs, teacher asked the pupils to do the corresponding action of jumping, walking, running, and sleeping. students can learn the words and sentence pattern in a piece of happy song and also make their body move coordinately. This method did not only enliven the atmosphere of the class but also stimulate students' interests and enthusiasm in learning English. The most important point is that pupils' body-kinesthetic and musical intelligences are improved a lot during the singing and performance.

5) Improving pupils' learning and visual-spatial intelligences

Music is a cultural transmission that music creators put what they use and what they see into the lyrics. the theme of the song or even its cultural background should be introduced or the new vocabulary and the structures should be practiced in advance. The children should understand what they are singing about and it should be an enjoyable experience [7].

Learning English through English songs will not only decrease the pressure of study, but also effectively develop the pupils learning capacity especially the listening and speaking. If we can combined listening and speaking with pictures or video, the effect would be immediate for the pupils in the primary schools because the children have the strong potential to accept new information and knowledge.

For example, Unit 2(in PEP Primary English for Grade 3)[10] is about colors words. How to learn and memorize

these words efficiently is to teach them the color song: red and yellow and pink and green, purple and orange and blue. I can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow now. Meanwhile the teacher could play the video for the pupils about different colors of flowers and formation of the rainbow. Based on the video and song, the students could not only appreciate the music and natural science but also learn these words in heart.

6) Improving pupils' creativity and problem solving intelligences

The goal of teaching English in primary school is to develop their comprehensive abilities instead of memorizing words and grammar. Because the learners in the first stage are nervous and lack of confidence, it is important to create the real language environment for the pupils. That is to say, to combine the abstract language with the real situation that the students are familiar with or interested in.

In 4B Unit4 (in PEP Primary English for Grade 4), the main content is about buying fruit, which includes the sentences patterns: "What would you like? I'd like some... How many kilos?" and the new words: "orange, banana, peach, apple and pear." At the beginning, the teacher taught them to learn the new words and the sentences patterns to make students have a basic familiarity of the main contents. Then the game was started like this: First, the teacher prepared some different model of fruits before class and imitated the classroom as a supermarket. Two students were chosen as the role-players. One played the customer and the other played a salesman in shopping activities. They are suggested to use the sentences of this text: "what would you like... I'd like some ... how many kilos" as well as showing the model of the fruit: "orange, banana, peach, and pear". This game created a real environment for students. In this relaxed environment, the comprehensive abilities of students are developed subtly. It did not only give a chance for them to exercise their performance ability and creativity, but also the English knowledge was imprinted deeply and naturally in their minds.

These are the functions of game and music teaching. The students may feel more enthusiastic in participation of the class by combining games and music with teaching. Students also had a keen interest in English learning and become more efficient in mastering of knowledge. The games and music activities should be carried out according to the specific teaching contents and teaching environment. These methods also enhances the sense of cooperation and students' ability of integrated use of language.

C. The Problem of Using Games and Music in Primary School's English Teaching

Although It is very essential to apply games and music in English teaching in primary schools. there also lies some problems. On the one hand, some students are still reluctant to participate in the games or are not fond of singing the English songs because of shyness or lacking of confidence, so teacher should become more patient with these group of students and give them more opportunities and encourage to learn English actively. On the other hand, the time of activity

was not be allocated and controlled more well. sometimes the result is not up to the teachers expectation.

Though the game and music teaching just play a supporting role, teachers should attach more importance to game and music teaching and arrange the time reasonably to complete the teaching objectives.

Only by applying the games and music methods in proper ways can we make the teaching and learning English get remarkably efficient in the primary schools in china.

III. CONCLUSION

Teaching and learning English becomes increasingly important in primary schools in china. The game and music teaching methods have not only the entertainment function, but also own the function of developing the children' intellectual capacities. In fact, these methods even have been used in ancient times. Both people abroad and at home come to realize the importance and urgency of game and music teaching in the primary school. Teachers can use the game and music methods to turn the dull language knowledge into vivid content, which makes students learn English in relaxed and pleasant atmosphere., teachers should design different kinds of teaching process that are suitable for students according to different characteristics of children in English classes of primary school. Teachers should try to use simple English and body language to show the rules of the game and music teaching methods.

Moreover, the teaching activities should be targeted and served for the teaching. The methods of games and music can stimulate students' interests and enhance self-confidence in learning. Pupils also can learn to cooperate, develop their basic language skills such as listening, speaking and reading. Besides, the most important is that these methods greatly exploit the pupils' comprehensive intelligence, that is, linguistic intelligence, mathematical or logical skills, body-kinesthetic intelligence, visual-spatial intelligence, musical intelligence, interpersonal intelligence, and intrapersonal intelligence [2]. Through repeated practice of games and English songs, students are able to learn in a pleasant atmosphere, which can deepen the memory of knowledge, improve learning efficiency, and reduce the burden and pressure on pupils learning. Meanwhile teachers should discover problems in game teaching and corrected them promptly.

In short, English teachers should proceed to use their wisdom to design a variety of English games and music activities for the pupils in the primary schools in china. "Skill" is the path to the mountain of knowledge; "working of happiness" is the boat to the endless sea of learning. Hard work is the guarantee of success. It is hoped that under teachers' hard work, all the pupils would learn English more better.

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