

# The Application of Multiple Intelligence in English Education

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**Abstract.** Since the emergence of humanism in the 1960s, the traditional authentic class with the teacher as the center has been gradually replaced by student-oriented class. Correspondingly, there have been various English educational theories and educational approaches based on students. Various teaching approaches have satisfied students' different interests and demands in different ways. These educational theories and teaching approaches have made a lasting influence on Chinese English education, which has vigorously promoted China's English education. However, it is still an urgent problem for college English education to give full play to students' various intelligence and to improve educational effect as well as learning efficiency. In this paper, it mainly analyzes the main problems existing in college English education, discusses the instructive effect of multiple intelligence on college English education, and explores the teaching strategies combined with multiple intelligence theories and college English education.

## Introduction

With the advent of world globalization, English is becoming an international business language. Only if we can master the usage of English, we can better participate in international competition. English is a public compulsory course opened in all Chinese colleges and universities with long teaching hours and periods; and meanwhile it accounts for many credits. Both students and teachers have devoted much energy to it, but the result we've achieved these years is not satisfying. There are still many students having troubles in speaking English. That is to say, Chinese English teaching is seriously lack behind economic and social development, requiring a reform urgently.

The integrity, situationality, expansibility and pluralism are rightly consistent with the purpose of open English study. The development process of multiple intelligence is just the cultivation process of students' qualities. English education is an important part of quality education, which extends much attention to students' listening, speaking, writing and translation skills. Thus, multiple intelligence can be introduced to arouse students' interest to improve teaching effect, and meanwhile students' intelligence can be cultivated during the teaching process.

Therefore, with analysis of multiple-intelligence theories, combined with many problems existing in current English education, this paper aims to explore teaching design strategies based on those theories so as to provide effective references for college English education.

## Analysis on the Main Problems Existing in English Teaching as well as the Reasons

**Students Have Low Learning Efficiency and Poor Language Employment Ability.** Nowadays, almost every student knows the importance of learning English, and they hope to learn English well during their study; however, in fact, they feel confused with poor awareness of independent study, let alone according to personal situations formulate specific learning plans, select proper learning strategies and methods, monitor self-study and learning progress, and evaluate self-study effect and goals' achievement.

**The Teaching Modes are Simple with Old Teaching Approaches.** The current English teaching approach learned from the teaching mode of educator Kairov in Soviet. Its procedure is review of last lessons, introduction of new lesson, explanation of new contents, consolidation of new lesson, and assignment of homework. The whole teaching process pays more attention to knowledge input without enough creativity of teaching approaches. For a long time, English class in colleges is centered on teachers, which is simple and stereotyped.

**The Educational Evaluation System is Irrational with Serious Problem of Examination-Oriented Education.** Examination is an important part of English education as well as one of the indispensable means to evaluate students' results. Generally speaking, examinations during teaching process belong to result test, which are organized by teachers according to teaching programs based on textbooks. The examinations aim to evaluate students' learning results as well as the educational effect by taking students' actual situation into consideration.

### **The Teaching Principles of Multiple-Intelligence Theories**

**People-Oriented Principle.** The people-oriented concept is actually a modern political concept. Its essential meanings are as follows. People should trust others, respect others, rely on others, develop others, and make others work and study happily so as to achieve better results and larger development. If the concept is employed to education, that is to say, students should be seen as the center. That is, teachers should trust students, respect students, rely on students, develop students, and respect students' rational demands for growth.

**Personalized Education.** According to the theory of multiple-intelligence, there aren't two same people in the world. As for education, teachers should develop effective and personalized course programs to meet different needs so as to explore students' potentials ultimately. In other word, each student should have the potential of creativity and success. This theory provides theoretical basis for class teaching design, and it also offers important basis for teachers to design teaching process and create teaching situations.

**Multi-Dimensional Evaluation Principle.** Evaluation is an important section of education and teaching process, which plays an important role in promoting and mobilizing students' activeness and learning effect. The development of multiple-intelligence theory requires a new evaluation system for cultural activities. It means that more importance should be attached to students' strengths while evaluating their learning effect from multiple perspectives so as to discover students' intellectual strengths. With proper evaluation methods, students' strengths can be strengthened to achieve a coordinated development.

### **English Teaching Design Based on Multiple-Intelligence Theories**

Since different students have different strengths and weaknesses, college English teachers should adopt flexible and various teaching approaches to meet students' different demands. Combined with multiple-intelligence theories, several teaching approaches are introduced below.

**Communicative Teaching Approach.** The so-called communicative teaching approach means to cultivate students' communicative abilities by taking language as a communicative tool. Communicative teaching approach advocates communicative or cooperative learning strategies, emphasizing communicative teaching activities or interpersonal activities based on role play, groups or cooperative learning activities, which all can provide language environment for English study.

**Independent-Learning Teaching Approach.** Independent learning originated from the hot discussion in western educational circle in the 1960s about cultivating learners' lifelong learning skills and independent thinking. By 1980s, some achievements have been obtained on theoretical researches. Independent learning has become a hot topic among foreign language education in recent 20 years. Many scholars have defined "independence" from different angles and different levels. According to Holec, independent learning is kind of capability responsible for learners themselves.

**Task-Based Teaching Approach, Which is Also Called Cooperative Learning.** Task-based teaching is a combination of communicative teaching and second-language research, representing modern language teaching concept under real situation. It is in accordance with college English reform, and it emphasizes that students should conduct study and tasks under real situation. While completing tasks or solving problems, they should also cultivate their independent and cooperative learning activities.

## Conclusion

The advantage of multiple intelligence lies in that it can instruct college English teaching like possibility and superiority. People-oriented, personalized education, coordinated development and multi-dimensional evaluation principles embody the application of multiple-intelligence in college English education, and meanwhile they are also instructive principles for college English education. However, multiple-intelligence teaching also puts forward corresponding requirements for teachers. For example, teachers should set up the teaching concept of personalized education with adoption of flexible and various teaching approaches. In this paper, while discussing and analyzing the whole theory, it also analyzes the necessity, feasibility and superiority of multiple intelligence in guiding college English teaching. It is also helpful for teachers to change educational ideas with correct concepts about students. Meanwhile, it can also offer theoretical basis for the implementation of various teaching strategies. The purpose of this paper is to study the teaching design under the guidance of multiple-intelligence theories in colleges and universities. Besides, it carefully discusses and analyzes teaching approaches and teaching designs with multiple intelligence. It can provide us with references on strategies.

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