

# Study on the Learning and Practical Environments that Affect the Study of Private College Students

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**Abstract**—Whether a student can learn English well or not is closely related to his or her own efforts as well as the learning and practical environment that he or she lives in. This article is to provide some references for the administrators of Teaching Affairs office in private colleges through briefly describing the learning and practical environment that affect the study of private college students.

**Keywords**—private college; learning environment; practical environment

## I. INTRODUCTION

Whether a student can learn English well or not is closely related to his or her own efforts, as well as the learning and practical environment that he lies in. Every year after the college entrance examination a large amount of students have to choose to study in a private college due to a lower grade, which can not make them step into a state-run college to further their study. Private college is a newborn power which began to emerge in 1980s, most of the private colleges are privately owned, independently managed and responsible for its own profits and losses without the government's help and lack of financial aid of the government, under this circumstance, can private college provide an ideal English learning and practical environment for the students? According some kind of survey on many private colleges, the result is not very satisfactory. This article intends to provide some references for the administrators of teaching affairs office in private colleges through briefly describing the English learning and practical environment that affect the study of the private college students.

## II. THE CURRENT DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN PRIVATE COLLEGES

### A. *The Amount of the Language Labs Is Too Small to Meet the Requirement of All the Students*

The amount of the private college students vary from seven or eight thousand to fifty or sixty thousand, thus the need of language labs is becoming enormously large, however so little does the private colleges invest on the construction of language labs that the amount of language labs is very small, which is hard to meet the requirements of all the students, thus the listening courses of private colleges can't be conducted in the language labs, but in the extra large classroom, whose

condition is so poor that it can't meet the basic requirements of the listening class. First of all, there is no soundproof material inlaid in the wall in the general classroom, the noises can easily pierce into the ears of the students, such as the noise outside the classroom, the whistle of the cars, the loud roar of the lawn mower, the sound coming from the construction site, even the whisper of some students in the class, all of these factors affect the English listening course directly and indirectly, this unsatisfying learning environment is undoubtedly becoming a fatal threat to the English teaching of the private colleges.

### B. *The Amount of Multimedia Classroom Is so Limited That It Can't Keep Abreast of the Development of Modern English Teaching*

Multimedia teaching method has a lot of advantages, as we know, image, sound, video clip and movie clips are put into the multimedia teaching, thus the content of the multimedia teaching method becomes much richer than ever before, which make the language input more direct, the cultural connotation that language bears is becoming more three-dimensional, which is helpful to cultivate the students' interests and ways of creative thinking. However, most of the administrators or headmasters haven't realize the importance of the multimedia teaching method, they lay too much stress on the cost that they don't intend to invest too much money on the modern equipment replacement, which is becoming an obstacle of the English teaching in private college. Under this circumstance, English teachers in private college have to adopt the out-of-date teaching method to teach the students, that is the "teacher-blackboard-chalk" teaching mode, in this kind of class, English teachers have been accustomed to teaching all the way without any questioning and the students have been accustomed to listening to the teacher and taking notes. Thus few chances are left to the teachers and the students to communicate with each other, therefore this kind of English class is sterile and lack of creativity, which is not beneficial to arouse the learning initiative and enthusiasm of the students. Meanwhile, it is also not beneficial to cultivate the language application ability of the students.

*C. Autonomous Learning Platforms Are Not Available for the Students Who Study in the Private Universities, Which Is Not Beneficial to Create an Ideal Self-Study Learning Environment for the Students*

The study of language theories, by its very nature, is of equal importance with the practice of language skills. The time that the students have spent on the study of learning English and intensity of training on the English study is directly proportional to the mastery of foreign language knowledge and the improvement of his language application ability. In traditional classroom, the practice of the students' language skills is relatively insufficient due to the limitation of the teaching time, while the autonomous learning platforms can fill the gap that the lecturing teaching mode can't conduct enough training in the classroom. On one hand, there is not so many classes which are arranged for the students, thus a large amount of students have nothing to do everyday; on the other hand, it is not so convenient for the students to communicate with the teachers when they meet something they are not so familiar or they don't know, at this time, the emergence of the autonomous learning platforms exactly can deal with this extremely difficult situation because it covers the whole process of teaching, learning, feedback, and management, in which students can learn by themselves and evaluate themselves autonomously and the teachers can conduct online teaching and give students online guidance in study, besides, the teachers can also communicate with the students through this autonomous learning platform. After class, the teachers can upload his teaching resources that they have taught in the classrooms on this autonomous learning platform for the students to study after class. Additionally, the teachers can also release messages on this autonomous learning platform, for example, setting the homework on this autonomous learning platform. What's more, the teachers can answer the students' questions and correct the students' homework on this autonomous learning platform. At the same time, this autonomous learning platform can record the students' online study orbit and the teachers' online teaching and guidance orbit. This autonomous learning platform lays great stress on personalized learning and autonomic learning, which greatly mine the students' learning potential and extend the students' English learning activities to the outside class, students can choose their free time to learn the online English resources according to their own characteristic, under this circumstance, the learning intensity of the students is greatly increased, thus the students' comprehensive application ability towards English is also improved a lot. Meanwhile, students can adjust their learning progress by themselves according to their own learning effect, only through this way can students' interest and initiative boost unprecedentedly. This autonomous learning platform has altered the homogeneous teacher-centered English teaching mode and update the concept of English teaching, which relocates the role of English teachers, and the role of teachers change from the initiator of knowledge into participants, mentors and promoters of English study. nowadays most of the private universities are not equipped with this kind of Autonomous Learning Platform, which is really a great regret for the students who studies in private colleges.

*D. Private College Can't Provide All the Students with An Excellent Practical Environment for Being Lack of Formal English Training Rooms and English Practice Base*

Most of the private colleges don't own their own English training rooms and practical base due to inadequate investment and limitations of many factors, thus the students are only able to learn the empty theory from books, without any chances to put what they have learned from the books into practice. In contrast, if there are enough English training rooms, students can practice the English knowledge that they have learned in the classroom and simulate different working scene, at the same time, students can also examine whether their English application ability can reach a set standard or not. As a matter of fact, being a communicative means, only in the working environment can English application ability maximize its value in use, what's more, only in the working environment can students check up what they have learned in English field and find their own shortcomings, from which to stimulate their motivation to improve themselves. Some of the public colleges in our country have done this well, they have increased the training contents in the English class activities, from which not only their English teaching contents are conducted more relevant to the future working post, but also the classroom teaching is directly arranged to the simulation training room or practice base, some of the classroom teaching is directly arranged to actual working place, for example, the English classes of tourism major in some colleges are arranged at the scenic spot, where the students can serve as an English guide and explain the knowledge of tourist attraction to foreigners in English, which is worthy of being imitated by the private colleges.

### III. THE UNSCIENTIFIC TEACHING MANAGEMENT IN PRIVATE COLLEGES

*A. Leaders of the Teaching Management Department Haven't Placed too much Stress on English Teaching and Have A Clear Knowledge of English Teaching*

The leaders of the teaching management development in private colleges haven't realized the importance of English in cultivating the students' cognitive ability, thinking ability, expressive ability and communicative ability, thus English course is always marginalized, even the public English teaching time is always squeezed. There are only four classes in one week, in addition, some English courses are arranged in the afternoon, which is a disrespect toward English teaching, because students are sleepy in the afternoon, thus it is difficult for the students to focus their attention on English learning, so the effect of class is not good at this time.

*B. The Selection of Teaching Materials Are Not Specialized, Or Is Not Closely Related to the Students' Major, Which Can't Attract the Student's Interest and Mobilize the Enthusiasm of the Students, thus the Students in Private Colleges Are Reluctant to Accept the English Teaching Materials in English Classes. There Are Still Many Problems Existing in the Practical, Applicable, and Interesting Aspects of English Textbooks*

As we all know, interest is the best teacher. If the students are not interested their textbooks which is being used, it will directly affect the students' motivation to learn English, while the content of the teaching material plays an very important role in supporting the implementation of the teaching objectives. If the organization of teaching materials can not fully reflect the characteristics of practicality and applicability, thus the expectation aim to achieve the goal of improving students' English practical ability is expected to be greatly reduced. Most of the private college all adopt the similar textbooks such as 《New Horizon College English》 《New Century Vocational College English》 《New Practical English》 etc, all of the publishing houses blow their own trumpet that their books own practicability as well as applicability, whereas it is doubtful whether these materials are really practical and applicable or not. We don't know whether the publishing houses have conducted some investigations as to whether the students really like the textbooks or not. That is an indisputable fact that the teaching materials are too unitary and totally unprofessional or are not too closely related to the students' major, this circumstance can only meet the students' need to conduct the daily communication through English, while this is not enough, because this deviates from the goal of higher vocational and technical talents training and can't cultivate the students' real professional ability. In contrast, if the nursing major students have access to the nursing English; the computer automation major students have access to the computer English, maybe the result will be absolutely different, students' interest to learn English will be greatly stimulated, at the same time, the students certainly will put more energy into learning English only because this kind of textbooks are closely related to their major, thus they may make use of English in the future job.

*C. The Class Settings Are Not So Reasonable and Scientific That the Class Size Maybe Too Large and The Number of the Students Maybe Too Overfull, Which Will Seriously Affect the Result of English Teaching*

Most of the classes in private college are severely overcrowding, whose number ranges from fifty to ninety due to the insufficient teaching buildings and classrooms, thus the teaching effect is not very good in this extra large classroom, because there are very few chances for every student to answer the teacher's question. Even though some discussions are raised in the classroom, while only few students are able to get the chance to make a speech, and the opportunities are not able to be given to every student due to the limitation of school hours, thus under this circumstance the students' opportunity to conduct oral communication will be greatly reduced. In addition, it is extremely difficult to achieve the goal that every student can understand what the teacher taught in the listening

class without portable megaphone because of the sheer number of students sitting in the classroom.

*D. Most Private Colleges and Universities Do Not Implement the Grading Teaching So That the Private Colleges Can't Educate Their Students According to The Students' Aptitude and Need*

Some of the students in private colleges come from the high school, others come from the vocational middle school or technical secondary school, even some students come from the five-year junior college class, so the overall level of the students is uneven, some students are good at English; others are not good at English, whereas the teaching management departments in private colleges haven't placed too much emphasis on this kind of situation and adopt one-size-fits-all approach to treat every student, which neglects the individual variability of every student, thus the result is that it is miserable for the teachers to conduct their teaching activities in the classroom, at the same time, the students also feel miserable to learn English in the class, neither the teaching result nor the learning result is ideal. If classification of teaching is not carried out, it will be very difficult for a teacher to take care of all the students' interest. If a teacher offers too simple teaching contents to all the students, some good students will have bias towards the teacher, they will think the teacher is not professional and knowledgeable; if a teacher only cares about the good students and offers some deep and complicated theories to the students, most of the students will feel it too difficult to catch up with the teacher's teaching progress, this kind of practice will waste a lot of time and energy of the students, and dampen the enthusiasm of the students. In contrast, if the grading teaching approach is implemented, the limitation of class will be broken, all of the classes will be divided into different levels, such as level A, B or C, under this circumstance Students of the same degree will be re assembled together to learn English, the teaching management department can Make different teaching schedule and teaching plan according to the students' different levels and needs, besides, the teachers also can decide whether he or she should explain the teaching contents easily or not, in this way can the English teachers teach their students according to their aptitude and need and create an excellent external learning environment for the students in private colleges.

*E. Most of the Teaching Management Departments Haven't Made Scientific Teaching Evaluation System, Which Is Not Helpful to Create A Good Management Environment for English Teaching*

Most of the private colleges regard the final exam as the main means of assessment and reflect their teaching only through students' test scores, which lacks diversification and unscientific because it is not comprehensive to see whether a student has mastered what the teacher taught him or her only through the exam, this system is not helpful to improve the quality of English teaching, thus private colleges and universities should change the phenomenon of excessive dependence on College English test, at the same time, the private college should also make its classroom teaching break away from the tendency of examination oriented Education

and cultivate the students' ability of autonomous learning. Besides, the teaching evaluation should combine process evaluation with result evaluation, at the same time, the teachers should focus their attention on the evaluation of the ability of students to use English to work in the workplace. The English teachers should try to adopt the approach of "written examination plus oral English and usual performance" to examine the students.

*F. The Structure of English Teachers Is not Reasonable, Which Can't Create A Good Teaching Environment for the Students in Private Colleges*

As we all know, an English teacher is a person who passes on his or her knowledge directly to the students in the classroom, their level has a direct impact on the uptake and absorption of the students' English knowledge, thus this kind of circumstance affects the students' English learning indirectly. The unreasonable structure of English teachers are as following : most of the teachers are too young and lack of teaching experiences; some of the English teachers don't have a clear knowledge of English teaching and lack of advanced teaching methods; Title structure of the private colleges is not reasonable , The number of English teachers who have middle and lower titles is extremely large, while the number of English teachers who have senior titles is extremely small, especially many English teachers who have senior titles have retired form public colleges for may years and they have ceased to engage in scientific research for many years, under this circumstance , how can we guarantee our teaching quality and scientific research results, thus this external learning environment also affects the English study of the students in private colleges.

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