

# Exploration and Research on the Application of Action Learning in the Teaching of Automobile Structure

Xu Yang

Huanghe Science and Technology College  
Zhengzhou, China 450063

Dongsheng Wang

Henan Boda microwave equipment Co., Ltd.,  
Zhengzhou, China 450003

Shaoju Hao

Henan Radio and Television University  
Zhengzhou, China 450001

Hao Yang

Students of Mechanical Major Undergraduate  
Zhengzhou, China 450063

**Abstract**—The action learning method is a new teaching mode which takes the students as the center, meets the needs of the students, and complies with the development of the times. It breaks through the limitation of the traditional teaching mode, and can effectively improve the teaching quality and teaching effect. Automobile structure is a required course for automobile application. In traditional teaching methods, students often only focus on the knowledge of memory, lack of independent thinking and initiative, to explore suitable for the "automobile structure" course teaching strategy is a priority. The introduction of action learning into the teaching reform of automobile construction course can improve students' learning interest, stimulate students' initiative and cultivate students' ability to solve problems independently.

**Keywords**—action learning method; automobile application specialty; teaching method; three person group activity

## I. INTRODUCTION

Automobile construction course is the main course of automobile application. It is not only an important foundation for the follow-up courses of study, but also the students' exposure to the profession. Through the automobile structure course of study, students can grasp the basic knowledge of vehicle structure, knowledge of the basic assembly of the role, structure characteristics, working principle and so on, understand modern automobile new structure, new technology. The traditional teaching methods of automobile construction take the teacher as the center, and are limited to the teacher's classroom instruction. Students tend to focus only on the knowledge of memory, lack of self thinking space and their own subjective initiative. This kind of teaching mode has hindered the development of students' subjectivity, and not conducive to training students' ability to cooperate. In order to stimulate students' interest in learning, improve students' application ability, so that students from the "want me to learn" to "I want to learn", the teaching method must be improved. Action learning as inheritance and Transcendence of the traditional teaching method is an

effective learning method in accordance with this trend. Taking the teaching practice of "automobile structure" as an example, this paper discusses the improvement and optimization of the teaching and learning quality of the course of action learning, which is based on the teaching practice of the core course of automobile application and maintenance specialty in Huanghe Science and Technology College.

## II. OVERVIEW OF ACTION LEARNING

### A. Definition of Action Learning

The action learning method was proposed by Professor Revans Reg in 1965. In 1940, he went to Belgium to organize and manage the training courses for senior management, which was the first to introduce this method into the scientific academic field of management development. Action learning, also known as "learning by doing", is to practice to rely on, to learn team as a unit, with real case as the object, to the role of the team members play as a means, to solve problems and achieve the development of individual and group as the goal is learning knowledge, sharing experiences and creative study and solve problems and practical action to one of the four methods.

### B. Application and Development of Action Learning

On the meaning of action learning, its founder professor Revans Reg uses the formula " $L=P+Q$ " to express. Among them, P (Knowledge Programmed) said that the teaching of structured knowledge". Q (Insight Questioning) is refers to the "deep reflection on the question" - based learning. Action learning is a kind of teaching mode which combines the knowledge teaching and the reflection question. In the world top 500 enterprises have been widely used and promoted, more and more enterprises in the world to action learning as a more effective, more powerful management tools, training methods. Pedler Mike expanded the formula as to:  $L=Q1+P+Q2$ . He pointed out that the most effective learning

should be based on the relevant questions, confusion or the opportunity to ask questions to start (Q1), through the guidance or teaching method of learning (P), will trigger a re definition of the problem (Q2). McGill Ian and Betty Liz pointed out: "action learning is a process of continuous reflection and learning with the support of colleagues in order to accomplish the intended work. Through the continuous improvement and development of scholars, at present, the formula of action learning has been further modified and expanded to:  $AL=P+Q+R+I$ . Among them, AL (Learning Action) refers to the action learning, P (Knowledge Programmed) refers to the structured knowledge, Q (Questions) that is proposed to be rich insight into the problem, R (Reflection) that is, I (Implementation), that is, the implementation of (). That is, action learning = structured knowledge + questioning + reflection + execution.

Action learning from university personnel training angle is defined as: in teaching, aiming at the actual problems existing in a society, learners through team work and experience sharing and continuous reflections, creative problem solving, so as to learn from each other, mutually promote and continuously improve the process. Through the way of action learning, team members by the joint efforts of the group, in the process of exploring and solving problems, to be able to obtain continuous growth and development.

### C. The Teaching Steps of Action Learning

There are four parts of the action learning method, namely, the problem; the formation of action learning group; to carry out learning and solving problems; class discussion and report. Specifically, action is based on the experience and support of the team members to rely on the problem as the center, to carry out creative thinking to carry out teaching activities.

### D. Rational Choice Problem

In the action learning method, the problem is not the teacher designated, but by the team members to discuss the choice. Because of their own problems, students can participate more actively in the process of learning. At this stage, teachers must guide students to follow the teaching outline of automobile structure, and the design of teaching problems based on the professional skills. With the education of the auto parts organization as an example, the problem can be developed around three levels: the first level is the basic knowledge, the students must master. The second level is a certain depth and difficulty of the problem, it is possible to explore through the action learning method to grasp. For example, the working principle of the variable timing mechanism of auto parts, the third level is the comprehensive analysis ability training, need to analyze the problem with a certain typical and strong comprehensive, comprehensive requirements for students. For example, the reason of the lack of cylinder compression pressure analysis, the need for students to have certain knowledge of reserves to be analyzed.

### E. Building an Action Learning Group

Action learning group composed of 3-14, supporters, statements, questions and listeners role play by each member of group. Each member needs to understand their role responsibilities, such as statement to his group presentation and to seek feedback from other members and make improvement of the next step work "action points" in the group's help; supporters, as a listener, by listening to, response and the consultation asked, help the statements to explore issues and formed new points; promoter by skill to control the team, the team members to interact effectively.

### F. Team to Carry out Learning; Teachers Do a Good Job of Supervision

Each group organizes team members to discuss by their choice the task, and put forward their preliminary views, to find the best way to solve the task. During this period, the team will need to collect the relevant information, complete preliminary cognition, form a preliminary view, and then carry out the task in the case of teachers to participate in the discussion. The fishbone diagram method, brainstorming, six thinking hat method, group listing method thinking tools presented their own views, to find the best way to solve the problem are discussed, and finally the formation of solutions. Teachers to discuss the principle of non intervention, mainly from the role of guiding the task of the group. The process of learning is through dialogue, discussion and other means of communication process, which is the process of questioning and reflection of students.

### G. Post Evaluation

Late stage evaluation is mainly to complete three tasks: one is the student the implementation process of the task force were summarized and discussed, self analysis of the achievements and shortcomings, showing self grow up feeling; second between each group to the other team's task to complete, for comment and discussion, learning the advantages of other groups, found its own lack of; teachers on each team task review and summary for the implementation of process control are given. Teachers in guiding students to complete the above tasks, to the study of this action to summarize, evaluate the results of this action learning projects and achievements. Based on the formulation of incentive methods to motivate the team and members of the performance of this learning action. Post evaluation is the solution of this action learning to fine, process, standardization, and to share the process of other groups.

## III. PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF ACTION LEARNING IN THE TEACHING OF "AUTOMOBILE STRUCTURE"

Three person group activities are the specific teaching methods for action learning. The basic idea is to set up a group of 3 students for a group discussion. Each person has a different role to play, so that students can take the initiative to participate in the discussion, can take the initiative to play. On the basis of the three groups of members of the exchange, to achieve the purpose of group communication. Combining

the three and the 9 group comprehensive discussion of the results, the results of the whole class to share, the teacher at the end of the results. The way of activity reflects the

meaning of action learning. Take 100 minutes of classroom as an example, the specific steps are shown in "Table I".

TABLE I. 100 MINUTES OF CLASSROOM TEACHING AND DISTRIBUTION OPERATION STEPS

NO.	Teaching content	time	function
1	On the need to discuss the support materials to explain, this course to discuss topics	10-15Min	Knowledge reserve before the discussion
2	Set up three groups, assign roles, and decorate communication tasks or learning tasks.	3-5 Min	The presenter, facilitator, observer three role
3	Exchange roles within the group, mutual exchange	9 Min	Everyone has different tasks and role experience
4	Re divided into three groups, to exchange	8 Min	Interactive learning experience
5	Each 3 3 people into a group of 9 people,9 groups of communication	10 Min	Communication between groups
6	The class share the results of the discussion	20--30 Min	The results of the study group show
7	Teacher summary	10 Min	Evaluation and motivation

For example explain the piston ring structure and maintenance "section, the piston ring is adapt to the complex work environment, need in the cross section of the surface, coating for technical improvement, which resulted in practical work for piston ring installing direction and position have many regulations and operation skill. While the content of the textbooks is messy, students are not easy to sum up and memory. The trio of teaching mode. At first, the teacher explained the working environment of the piston ring, supporting theories and knowledge need secondary seal principle and pump oil phenomenon is discussed in the next step, put forward "piston ring the correct installation methods have what note". Then in accordance with the above steps and the time distribution of the student organization of group discussion, exchange discussion and large group, during which teachers visited the classroom, urge the group behind

the study process, the students answer discussion questions generated in the process of. In the final sharing can be found that students not only from the textbooks to find the correct installation of the piston ring all the answers, but also on the answer to the use of the knowledge learned to explain the principle of. Have the students put forward no textbooks of new ideas, new old piston ring mixed harm, coke deposition on piston ring life influence, the classroom atmosphere active, all students arouse the study enthusiasm, in order to achieve the teaching goal.

About the automobile structure teaching using action learning effect, by student feedback evaluation system; teachers of students usually curriculum participation degree, operation and daily test results of the assessment; supervision lectures and test analysis of educational organizations in the, comprehensive analysis as shown in "Table II".

TABLE II. COMPREHENSIVE COMPARISON TABLE OF ACTION LEARNING AND TRADITIONAL TEACHING METHOD

assessment element	Content evaluation	Evaluation of action learning	Evaluation of traditional teaching method
Students learning style	1.Emotional attitude: a strong interest, learn easily, active participation, autonomy, student music learning.	good	normal
	2.Student participation: participate in the occurrence, development and formation of knowledge.	good	normal
	3.Cooperation level: active learning atmosphere, warm discussion.	good	normal
	4.Ability to express: Express smooth, voice loud, clear and logical.	good	normal
	5.Thinking quality: focus, quick thinking, memory, observation, imagination, self reflective ability to get effective training.	good	normal
	6. Learning methods: through the observation, the exchange of active access to knowledge, the formation of skills.	good	normal
	7.Learning ability: preview in place, independent thinking, active exploration, have good listening and discussion, questioning, writing, reading habits.	good	normal
	8.Innovative ability: good at evaluation, dare to express different views, questioned novel, not for the pursuit of the courage to compete, be good at study, overcome difficulties and achieve success.	good	normal
teaching effectiveness	9.Detection of feedback effect, training to achieve the desired goals, achieves development goals; achieve the goal of teaching the proportion of students.	90%	70%

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Action learning make full use of the characteristics of the existing classroom space and promote the interaction and communication between students, for teachers to promote students parallel interaction and communication provides a useful form of classroom organization, conform to the

theoretical knowledge of the nature of the acquisition. In the actual classroom teaching, taking the students as the main body and the center, the enthusiasm and interest of the students to learn the theory of automobile structure is improved, and the trend of the reform of modern curriculum and teaching theory. Action learning from an emphasis on "learning to apply", emphasize knowledge conversion

capability, knowledge conversion for practice, in line with the basic spirit of higher education. The introduction of action learning into the classroom teaching of automobile structure is also a further guarantee of teaching quality from the teaching strategy.

Action learning in teaching practice exploration and utilization is a system engineering, need to relevant management departments in Colleges and universities attach great importance to and the main force of full participation, need to have experience of learning guidance of learning methods and the process of the profound understanding and grasp of the needs organizers and participants of the in-depth study of the learning process and continue to sum up. Effective value of action learning also need more colleges and universities in the teaching practice of verification and popularization of automobile application, try to explore to the teaching reform of colleges and universities, the positioning of the future the goal of personnel training, personnel training mode optimization plays a direct role in promoting.

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