

# A Brief Study on Necessity of Using Flipped Class Mode in Chinese College English Teaching

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**Abstract.** Flipped classroom is a form of blended learning. It brings interactive engagement pedagogy to classrooms by making students learn content online, it is also known as backwards classroom, inverted classroom, reverse teaching, as a new teaching mode, has been effectively adopted by more and more colleges, and it has also achieved unbelievable effectiveness in every field teaching at home and abroad. Traditional college English teaching confined students' communicative ability severely, and it only emphasized the first step of English teaching---knowledge transferring, and neglected the utility of English as a kind of tool of communication, so according to the shortages of Chinese traditional English teaching mode, based on the personalized education philosophy of flipped classroom, this paper mainly study the necessity of using Flipped Class Mode in Chinese college English teaching under the background of information technology, the current college English teaching mode and Chinese education reform environment..

## 1. Introduction

With the in-depth development of educational internationalization, English, as a tool of communication, plays an initial role in human daily life, so it became increasingly important in the cultivation of English language ability, even non-English major students, but traditional English Classroom seems to exist a variety of problems, it seriously hindered the usefulness of English as a media of communication, students study English in order to cram test, that is the so called---cramming teaching, and student of dumb English. Because of the lack of a real communicative context, the traditional college English classroom becomes boredom and tiring. So we should change such kind of teaching mode, call for technology means to establish student-centered learning environments. We should think more about college English teaching reform in the information age, in such an information quality-oriented education environment, college English teaching should also keep the same pace with the development of science, using these educational ways and multichannel of informationization to change the college English teaching accordingly. Teachers and students should actively and effectively use the advantages of the internet, and we must find the way to overcome various disadvantages of college English teaching, nowadays, it is also an age of informationization, the flipped classroom is suitable for modern educational concept, it use informationization means to provide knowledge outside of the classroom and complete the exercises in the class, the flipped classroom approach has drawn much more attention from its research and practice. Therefore, using flipped class mode in college English teaching become necessity and important, it will make our college English class better and attractive, and enhance effectiveness of college English teaching to some extent.

## 2. The Original and Development of Flipped Class Mode

Flipped classroom originated in the United State Colorado Rocky Mountain Woodland Park High School. Teachers are often plagued by a problem, some students, because of a variety of reasons, often miss the normal school activities, and it also spent too much time on the school bus. As a result, many students cannot keep the pace with the progress of class with being absent from school. So, Chemistry teacher Jonathan Berman and Aaron Samus began using computer to record the

PowerPoint presentations and teacher-led voices, they combine the real-time explanation and PowerPoint showing video and upload to the network, in order to help such students who missing class frequently. More groundbreaking thing is that two teachers gradually save the classroom time to offer the help to those students who have problems when they do their homework or experiment, which based on students watch the video to study at home. Later, more and more people paid attention to this kind of teaching mode, and the two teachers are often invited to introduce the teaching mode by other educationist, and more and more teachers begin to use online video to teach students outside classroom, and to practice collaborative learning and grasping of concepts in the classroom. Actually, the real beginning of domestic education researchers pay close attention to the flipped classroom is Salman Khan who gave his speech entitled “video remodeling education”. Therefore, the Flipped Classroom is not the so called online video, it is actually a kind of a teaching mode that teacher made video before the class, students watch the teacher’s explanation at home or outside the classroom, and then teachers and students communicate face to face and complete the learning of the knowledge in the classroom, it is a mean to increase the interaction and personal contact time between students and teachers, it is a kind of study mode combining of direct and constructivist learning mode, all students can get personalized education with the flipped class teaching mode.

### **3. Study of Flipped Class Mode at Home and Abroad**

As a response to the call for technology enhanced, student-centered learning situations, the flipped classroom approach has drawn much attention from both the research and practice fields. Although over the past fifteen years the flipped class mode was designed and practiced by many different filed which in related to diverse disciplinary contexts, there is gap in the design principles between different curriculums. In the theory, Many scholars published many essays, which mainly talked about the study on the flipped classroom, the necessity and feasibility of using flipped class mode at home and abroad, including the essay “the experience of three flipped classrooms in an urban university: an exploration of design principle” selected from <internet and higher education>; “Flip my Class! A Faculty development demonstration of a flipped-classroom” selected from <Currents in pharmacy teaching and learning>; “The use of a Flipped classroom to enhance engagement and promote active learning” selected from <Education and practice> and so on, such studies are all focuses on study that flipped classroom are an instructional technology trend mostly incorporated in higher education settings in every curriculum. Therefore, the study of flipped class mode has already aroused wide attention both at home and abroad. In the practice, our most Chinese colleges are carrying out the curriculum reform, the competence-oriented education reform and new class reform, and many schools in shanghai and Beijing has already adopted the flipped classroom, and that teaching mode used in several experimental schools were also good.

### **4. The Analysis of Necessity of Using Flipped Class Mode in Chinese College English Teaching**

Nowadays, with the development of technology, more and more new teaching means can be used in our classroom, for example multimedia, computer, slid projector and so on, we can put these new technology into our traditional classroom under the informationization environment, and the traditional English class exist many problems, so we will talk about the necessity of utilizing flipped class mode.

#### **4.1 The Necessity of Changing Chinese Traditional College English Classroom**

As a public basic course, College English regards non - English major college students as the main Teaching object. These students have some common problems such as poor English, lack of interest in learning English, which becomes the biggest obstacle to college English teaching. At the same time, a lot of teaching content finished in the limited classroom time leads to teachers’ knowledge transfer occupy most of the class time, so interaction between teachers and students, question and answer time spend little time in class time, which are the major factors of hindering the upgrading the college English teaching and improving the teaching quality. Another, further development of economic globalization has been improved China’s international status. For the Chinese, English

especially listening and speaking ability, as an international common language, is becoming more and more important. However, in contrast to international students, Chinese College Students has poor English skills and no self-confidence reflect some problems in traditional college English class. Firstly, in English class, teacher emphasizes knowledge transfer and despises the internalization process of knowledge. Eric Mazur, a professor of physics at Harvard University, think that traditional teaching focuses only on the first step in the learning process---the information transmission, and put this process on the most important aspects in class. But Traditional teaching ignores the second step--the absorption of internalization, and put this process out of the class, the students cannot get the help from teacher absolutely. Secondly, the teacher-centered mode is not conducive to the development of students' creativity. The traditional class focuses on explaining of sentence patterns, emphasis on mechanical imitation too much and ignores the cultural of language. As a result, students lack of understanding about the background culture of language and the chance of creativity. In teacher-centered class, every student has little chance of to practice oral English; student has no enthusiasm to take part in class activities. Thirdly, the examination-oriented teaching mode is bad for improving students' listening and speaking ability. All kinds of English examinations are still playing orienting and adjusting role, so many students' learning motivation of English comes from passing band four in College English Test, band six in College English Test and postgraduate entrance examination, which is difficult to improve the utilization of English in reality. Lastly, traditional English teaching mode is not good for improving students' self-confidence. In fact, Chinese college students has no confidence, they are not dare to speak English because they afraid of making mistakes when speaking, so students' ability cannot get improvement. The changing of such king of teaching mode is no time to delay.

#### **4.2 The Challenge of the Globalization**

With the science development, globalization bring challenge and pressure to everyone, china educational mode does not adapt to the development of globalization, actually, more and more undergraduate student cannot find job at present, so our Chinese college teaching mode should be changed in the future. The first thing what we should do is to change our traditional class mode, teachers are not the saints on the platform, students are not passive learner, they should put the knowledge which they learned in the class into practice, especially English language. The world needs more active talents who should have team awareness and innovative spirit. However, the traditional English teaching class is only pay more attention to imparting knowledge, not pay attention to knowledge application in reality. Although in modern college English class, teacher use modern technology means in class, such as power- point and projector and so on, but it is not overcome the shortages of traditional teaching mode, and not realize the role exchange between teacher and students actually. In the class, students only absorb the knowledge given by teacher, they have limited time to exercise the knowledge the learned, teachers are still used to pass the lecture and students have no chance and time to speak English, this kind of teaching mode becomes the obstacle of learning interest, activity and initiative. Therefore college education becomes ineffective, class becomes ineffective one, so the talents who trained by traditional teaching mode cannot meet the globalization demands, in order to satisfy such requirements, we should seek a kind of more activity and effective class mode.

#### **4.3 The Feasibility of Utilizing of Flipped Class Mode in Chinese College English Class**

Different with the traditional teaching, the flipped classroom can be defined as using informationization means to provide knowledge outside of the classroom, while assignments with concepts are provided inside the classroom through learning activities (Clark, 2013). It means, in a certain sense, that Flipped Class Mode is to decrease time of the transmission of knowledge, and to create more chances to listen and speak English under the informationization, students complete the acquiring. It can enhance engagement and promote students' active learning through the use of Flipped Classroom. In addition, there are more advantages of such teaching mode, for example, it can train student's self-leaning and self-management; teachers can make the complete teaching plan outside and in the class, there are more time for students to speak and to show in class; and it will help the students cultivate interest in learning English, and improve the students group learning, leadership and sense of responsibility and team spirit, it also can train students ability to find and

solve the problem, group task distribution, home and school communication, and self-confidence and more will to show, therefore, it can make our class time spent more efficiently. So with respect to Chinese traditional college English class, Flipped Classroom can not only improve student's self-learning of English effectively, but also student's critical thinking ability. Therefore, Flipped classroom seems superior to traditional college English teaching mode. It shows just like the following comparison table 1:

Table 1. Comparison Table of Traditional Education and Flipped Classroom Elements

	Traditional Classroom	Flipped Classroom
The role of teacher	Disseminator of knowledge; Administrator of classroom	Guiding, answering, exploring and the maker of activities
The role of student	Passive adopter	Active learner
In the class	Teacher give the lecture; Student learn passively	Do exercises; Discuss questions
Out of class	Do homework	Self-study by using other study material

From this comparison table, we are easy to find that Flipped classrooms effectively combine traditional and online education by using both in and out-of-class time. It is more superior to traditional class mode. It suggests that the approach provided an engaging learning experience, was effective in helping students learn the content, and increased self-efficacy in their ability to learn independently. However, flipped classroom is to flip the traditional teaching mode into students study after class, to change traditional exercises out of class into helping solve the problems from students. It is a kind of innovational teaching mode that exchange the traditional teaching in class and practicing out of class using online courses, to cover the shortage and disadvantage of traditional teaching mode that need to finish teaching task in limited time and space. However, we should make clear that online course in flipped class mode is not the substitute of traditional class, but the organic integration with traditional class.

## 5. Summary

In a word, flipped class teaching mode is more superior to traditional teaching mode; it has important practical significant to non-English major students. Under such internet technology and computer widespread informationization age, Flipped Cass Mode is necessity and feasibility in Chinese college English teaching. As a college English teacher, we should combine the subject knowledge with technical knowledge effectively to improve students' interest of learning English, and carry on various class teaching modes reforming for better communicative competence in using English, just for the modernization of our country has a great demand for talents with communicative competence in using English than for talents with only professional knowledge. Flipped class mode is the outcome of informationization, it pays more attention to English independent leaning, Students can use the internet to learn high-quality educational resources, no longer simply rely on teachers' teaching in the class to absorb knowledge, and the role of students and teachers has changed. Teachers' responsibility is to help students to solve the students' problems and guide students to use knowledge out of the class, and it is more focus on the completion of exercises and interaction with teachers and peers. Therefore, it is necessary to utilize the flipped class mode in Chinese college English teaching.

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