

New Thinking on Cultivation of English Language Talents in Colleges and Universities Based on “The Belt and the Road” Strategy

Baiping Huang

Pingxiang University, Pingxiang, Jiangxi, 337055, China

Keywords: new thinking, cultivation of English language talents; “The Belt and The Road”; diversified teaching mode

Abstract: With the increasing influence of China's political and economic power and the deepening of "The Belt and The Road" strategy, China has a global vision and skilled use of foreign language professionals in the context of the continuous improvement of China's participation in global governance. The development of "The Belt and The Road", colleges and universities should be responsible for cultivating high-quality applied English language talents. In particular, improving students' communicative skills, and their ability to establish smooth communication channels are more urgent. However, at present, the cultivation of English language talents in colleges and universities is not ideal. The number of high-quality language talents with good spoken English is far less than that of market demand. Language talent training faces great challenges and the teaching mode needs to continue to improve. It is necessary to innovate the path of diversified teaching mode of English language from the aspects of adjusting the curriculum, paying more attention to the internationalization of the teacher training, establishing the personnel training system and perfecting the practical teaching resources.

1. Introduction

English language talent cultivation must be compatible with the development of "The Belt and The Road". In order to guarantee the talents who will provide language services for the "The Belt and The Road" strategy, colleges and universities must do an excellent job in training the high-quality English talents. In the Group of 20 leaders summit and global governance system reform forum in September 2014, Chinese leaders have stressed that to improve our ability to participate in the global governance, we need a large number of talents who are familiar with the Party and national policies and understand Chinese national conditions, and also have the global perspective[1-4], besides, the professional talents should skillfully use foreign languages, and are experts in international affairs and international negotiations. The criterion for future Chinese talent training for “The Belt and The Road” strategy poses a programmatic guidance for colleges and universities. The cultivation of high-quality English professionals who are proficient in English and have a good professional ability is an important task to English teaching in colleges and universities. Moreover, the oral ability is the vital embodiment of proficient in English. In the initiative of "The Belt and The Road", China's economical and trade communications with other countries put forward the new demand and the need for the qualified English talents is very huge. To many domestic colleges and universities, the situation supplies a good opportunity and also a formidable challenge.

For the opportunity, the increase of economic and trade cooperation among the countries along the way will inevitably increase the demand for English talents, which creates good job opportunities for domestic students or students who are interested in engaging in related industries. "The Belt and The Road" relates to large population and many countries which are mostly in the period of economic growth, and the social development is quite stable. In addition, these countries are rich in tourism resources, so a great potential for cooperation and space exists. However, the linguistic and cultural differences must be taken into consideration. To expand their cross-border economic and trade cooperation and realize their tourist development, there is an urgent need for a large number of versatile talents to understand the culture of different countries and to speak different languages. Along with the new trend, the cultivation of college English talents once again becomes popular.

Domestic universities can take this as an opportunity to strengthen international education exchanges and cooperation, and will be able to train a large number of high-quality English talents. At present, the degree of "internationalization" of English majors in domestic colleges and universities is not enough, which cannot meet the market need for domestic talents. In many colleges and universities, English personnel training goals, English teaching content and the curriculum settings still remains traditional, and therefore it hard for them to keep pace with the time, and it is difficult to improve the quality of personnel to meet the demand in a short time.

2. "The Belt and The Road" initiative

"The Belt and the Road" initiative advocated and led by China has received much positive response and participation from most countries along the way. The purpose of the initiative is to closely link the countries along the way, and achieve the goal of promoting its political, economic, cultural and comprehensive development through regional cooperation and exchanges. The percentage of total trade volume of China and the countries along the way and the world's total trade is shown in Figure 1. This shows that the economic and trade relations between China and countries along "The Belt and The Road" have become increasingly close.

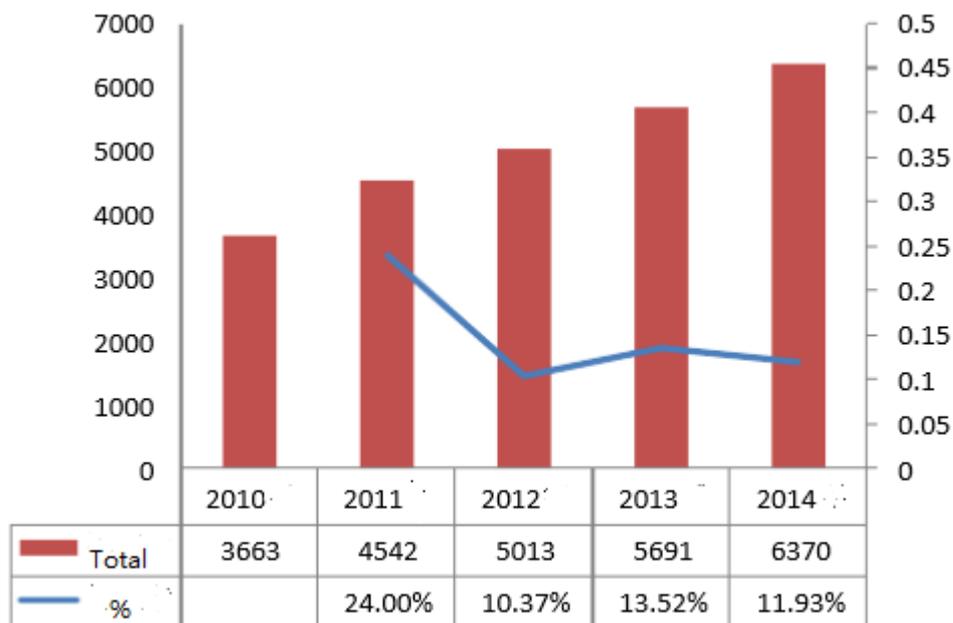


Figure 1 the percentage of China's trade share with countries along the way and the global share from 2010 to 2014.

Chinese enterprises going out and China's economic globalization will put a higher demand for oral English talents in business, which motivate the innovation and progress of business oral English teaching. The current oral English teaching mode has cultivated a large number of talents, effectively promoted the development of China's foreign trade. With the economic environment change and the national strategy introduced, the current training mode cannot meet the future development needs, which will produce a forced mechanism to push a constant reform of oral English teaching.

There are a lot of cultural diversities in the countries along "The Belt and The Road", so the quality of business English talents must be higher and more diversified to meet the requirement of more stringent English teaching. In the past, when talking about international business and more will think of trade between Europe and the United States, the corresponding business English talent training focused on Europe and the United States. "The Belt and The Road" has greatly expanded the area and the scope of foreign trade market, therefore, the East Asian economic circle and the European economic circle between the vast hinterland countries is as an important trade object, such as Central Asia, West Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia and other regions. The cultural diversity, business

requirements, legal systems, religions and social customs differs greatly from country to country. Figure 2 shows the trade situation about China and regions along “The Belt and The Road.”

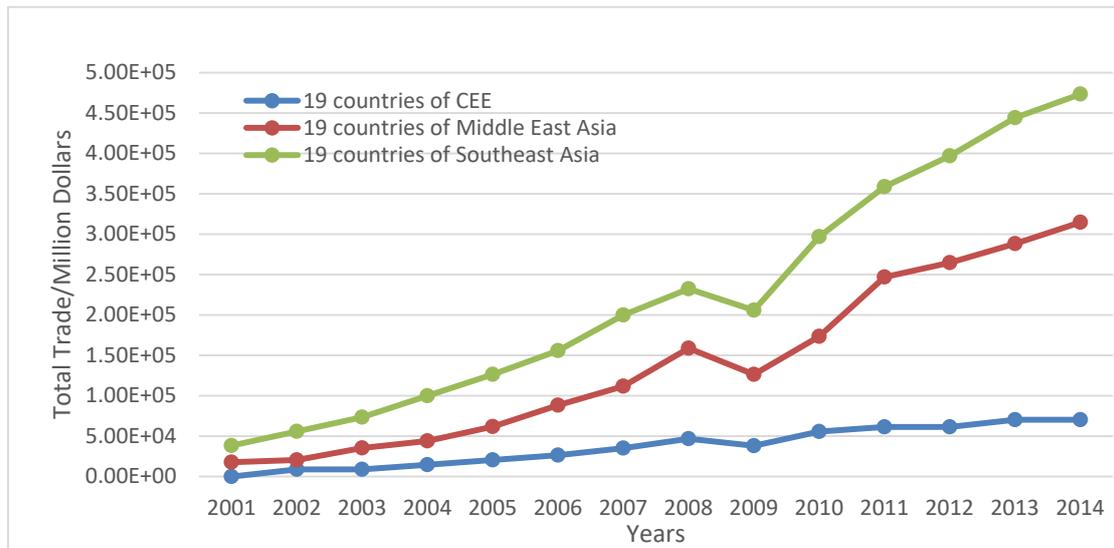


Figure 2 the trade situation about China and regions along “The Belt and the Road.”

3. New thinking on the cultivation of English language talents in colleges and universities

Coming from different places of the country, college students' English language level and language learning habits are quite different, and therefore it is obvious that the single and traditional teaching mode of English language is apparently not suitable for every student. In addition, the traditional method of oral English teaching is too simplified and lack of flexibility and it cannot effectively stimulate students' interest and enthusiasm in oral English learning, as a result, the learning effects naturally cannot be ideal. Figure 3 shows the present oral English teaching mode in colleges and universities. At present, many college English teachers are not proficient enough in teaching writing skills and oral English as all-round teacher, most of them pay more attention to teaching writing skills, which often ignores the practice of spoken English. So this teaching mode is not likely to be a good guidance to students for practicing oral English. What's more, at present the degree of internationalization of English teachers is not high enough, there is a lack of international advanced educational ideas [5, 6]. The objectives of English education should include cultivating the ability of spoken English to reach a certain level so as to facilitate fluent communication with foreigners. Therefore, the cultivation of English talent should not target only to English majors, it should target all the students in colleges and universities, although the requirements and standards for each are different between the professionals and other students. Therefore, in the area with a strategy, the successful completion of the dissemination of Chinese culture, the idea of communication ideas, we must focus on training students' oral English ability, so as to ensure the smooth and successful progress of cross-cultural communication.

At present, most of the students' English practical and professional training is done in language laboratory on campus. A small part is done through the internship in the off-campus cooperative enterprise, with slight chance of overseas internship or practical training. More and more students are seeking opportunities to receive education and training abroad. In addition, for the cultivation of English professionals, most domestic colleges and universities have established their own teaching and training workshops and off-campus training base. But the standard and construction of the training workshops and training base differ greatly among schools. Many colleges have training workshops of high standard.

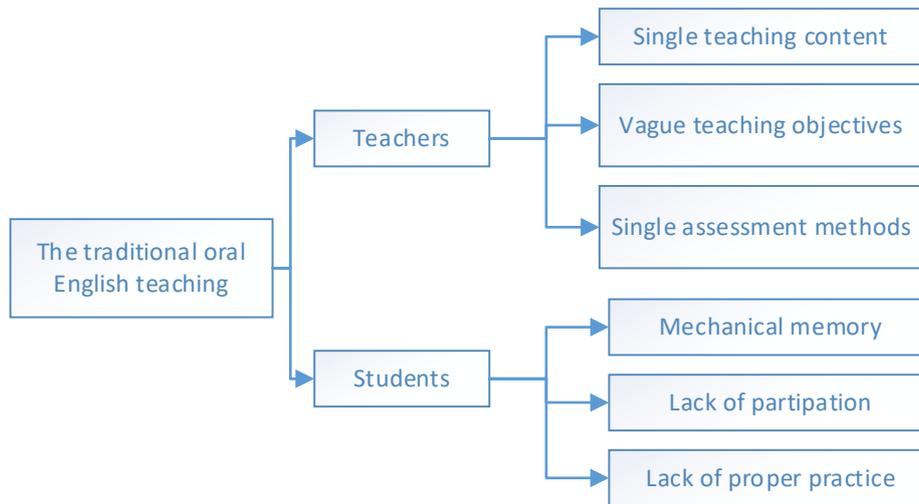


Figure 3 the status of present oral English teaching mode

4. Explore the path of diversified teaching mode

Importance should be attached to three combinations: a combination of professional education and foreign language education, a combination of local education and international education, a combination of theoretical teaching and practical teaching, and then we can build a diversified teaching model to cultivate more spoken English talents.

4.1 Clear teaching objectives

Since the students' ability to speak English is regarded as an important standard of English professional training, college English curriculum and teaching content should be adjusted to change. It is very necessary to incorporate the content of the career proficiency curriculum to the teaching plan, which is closely related to the "The Belt and The Road" strategy and market demand. In addition to the basic knowledge curriculum covering English writing skills, the proportion of relevant professional knowledge courses and practical courses should be added to the curriculum to intensify the training of students' basic skills and the knowledge which has been mastered during high school stage may reduce the class, and highlight the listening exercise to train students' ability to use English in practice [7]. It is important to combine language skills training and other professional knowledge. It is necessary to offer a professional English course for students specializing in management, business, journalism, tourism, international politics, and educational technology so as to combine language skills training and other professional knowledge.

4.2 Focus on the internationalization of teacher training

Colleges and universities should increase their investment in the cultivation of English teachers, and improve the teaching level of teachers. First of all, the relevant departments should vigorously introduce foreign teachers or foreign industry talents and experts as a practical teaching instructor [8]. The Second, the teacher's teaching ideas and methods should also be compatible with the current international advanced concepts and standards should keep pace, so that its teaching concepts and international changes in line. At the same time, teachers are encouraged to actively participate in various international exchange meetings to obtain the most advanced and cutting-edge new knowledge and new skills to improve the teachers' ability. Finally, schools and enterprises can cooperate with each other to create environment for teachers to enrich their practical experience, and school professional teachers be sent to countries along "The Belt and The Road" to study. With teachers' improving their teaching and research ability, it is easy to improve their teaching level likewise.

4.3 Joint academic research and development between business enterprises and colleges

The exchange and cooperation between institutions of higher education in countries along "The

Belt and The Road” plays an important role in strengthening ties between countries along "The Belt and The Road". High frequency of academic exchange and high level of educational resources sharing, scientific and technological cooperation, personnel communication will strengthen international link between countries along “the Belt and the Road” and promote those countries to deepen their reform and open to the international world. Many universities and companies in countries along “The Belt and The Road” are setting up think tanks to carry joint research and development and offer consultation to their government.

5. Summary

In the background of "The Belt and The Road", the domestic college oral English teaching mode should combined with the international tourism laws and regulations, and the country customs and religious culture. In summary, the diversified teaching modes are important ways to improve the oral English ability of college students, especially for the need of excellent talent who are able to meet the challenge of “The Belt and The Road” development. The diversified teaching modes not only can create a real relaxed environment for students to improve their oral English ability, but also can improve the quality of college English teaching. Thus, the goal of meeting the needs of international high-quality English talent can be achieved and students can grow as soon as possible in line with the new situation.

References

- [1] COGNOME N. Personnel Training Mode of Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Language Based on Belt and Road Strategy [J]. *Agro FOOD Industry Hi Tech*, 2017, 28:1.
- [2] Weidong L I U. Scientific understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative of China and related research themes [J]. *Progress in Geography*, 2015, 34(5): 538-544.
- [3] Fallon T. The New Silk Road: Xi Jinping's Grand Strategy for Eurasia [J]. *American Foreign Policy Interests*, 2015, 37(3): 140-147.
- [4] Burke C, Corkin L, Tay N. China’s Engagement of Africa: Preliminary Scoping of African Case Studies. Angola, Ethiopia, Gabon, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia [J]. November: Centre for Chinese Studies, 2007:74.
- [5] Jigang C A I. Characteristics and solutions of college English teaching in transition [J]. *Foreign Language Teaching and Research*, 2007, 1: 005.
- [6] Xia A T. Combination of vocational characteristics and improve the effect of oral English teaching vocational [J]. *Journal of Nanchang College of Education*, 2010.
- [7] Wang X. Main Problems in College Students’ Oral English Learning and the Corresponding Teaching Strategies [J]. *Higher Education of Social Science*, 2013.
- [8] Hawkins S J. Guilt, missed opportunities and false role models: A look at perceptions and use of the first language in English teaching in Japan [J]. *JALT Journal*, 2015, 37(1): 29-42.
- [9] Hu H. Teaching Model of College English Using a Computer Network [J]. *International Journal of Emerging Technologies in Learning*, 2016, 11(8).