

# The Application of Role-Playing Teaching Method in College English Teaching for Adult Education

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**Abstract.** From Chinese accession to the WTO to the current acceleration of economic globalization, Chinese emphasis on English and actual needs are getting higher and higher. The goal of English teaching has also shifted from pure English language knowledge education to practical English training. What needs more attention is the improvement of students' English communication and practical work application ability. This paper takes the role-playing teaching method as the starting point in college English teaching for adult education, and discusses the current situation of English education in China, and achievements and problems in the process of using the role-playing method. Finally, this paper sums up how to better apply the role-playing teaching method to improve the effect of students' learning and teachers' teaching.

## Introduction

Adult education is one of the important ways to improve the academic qualifications and knowledge reserves of employed people. As the certificate of adult education has been recognized by more and more enterprises in recent years, adult education has also become more popular. Influenced by Chinese national conditions and actual social needs, English teaching for adult education has been favored.

Employed people pay more attention to the study of English in their practical life and work, especially in the training of listening and speaking. Adult education English emphasizes the improvement of comprehensive English ability, especially focusing on the ability of students to communicate effectively in a specific environment. Under the actual teaching needs, a large number of English teaching methods have emerged, and they are constantly being promoted. Among them, role-playing method is particularly favored, which has obvious teaching advantages. It can simulate the actual environment for students, cultivate students' spoken ability. At the same time, it can make the embarrassing students express smoothly and improve their interest of learning. This has different levels of help and promotion for both English and communicative competence.

However, this method also has certain difficulties and problems in practical application. Due to external conditions, it can not exert obvious advantages compared with traditional education methods, affecting actual effect and students' learning confidence. This article gives a detailed explanation of some issues related to role-playing in the application of college English teaching for adult education.

## The Definition of Role-playing Method and Its Application in English Teaching for Adult Education

The role-playing method is a teaching method that is more routinely used in the language teaching process, which is able to return to the student as the main body of the teaching process. Besides, it has strong interest and emotional rendering ability, reflecting the fragments of real life in the form of games, and requiring participants to step out of themselves, play different roles, and reproduce the fragments.

Applying this method to adult education in English teaching requires students to fully use their vocabulary, grammar and speaking skills to integrate themselves into practical situations. Teachers

can select some scenarios in a targeted manner, such as selecting tourism, conducting business negotiations, medical treatment and other common communication occasions for simulation. Students are required to play different roles, such as guides, tourists, doctors, etc.. According to the behavior patterns of daily activities, the language is converted from the Chinese environment to the English environment for daily activities.

The role-playing method is to train students' comprehensive abilities, such as vocabulary, grammar, on-site reaction speed, cultural habits, and communication strategies. Therefore, it is a more comprehensive method. At the same time, this teaching method provides students with a real English teaching environment. Although it is different from the foreign environment, it can be entertaining, which can develop students' language skills through a relaxed atmosphere, and enhance their spirit of cooperation and on-site response.

### **The Practical Role of Role-Playing Teaching Method in College English Teaching for Adult Education**

The most important role of the role-playing teaching method is to highlight the main position of students in teaching activities. The author summarizes the unique role of the role-playing method by comparing the role-playing method with the traditional method of education.

#### **Mobilize Students' Learning Interest and Activate the Classroom Atmosphere**

The traditional English teaching method is boring, and the teaching process is centered on words, grammar, texts, and reading exercises. It is difficult for students to raise interest during the whole process. The group of students facing the college English teaching for adult education is generally employed. Their social identity is more complicated, but all have the common feature that it is difficult for them to calm down and learn and regular memorization has become difficult for them to teach. The purpose of their study is very strong, and they hope to be able to apply it immediately. The role-playing method adapts to their characteristics and can mobilize their initiative of learning.

The role-playing scene is exactly what we use in daily life. In the process of learning, students can effectively memorize the knowledge they have learned and have a practical application. Besides, students can achieve a more direct sense of accomplishment in the teaching process.

During the traditional English teaching, the teacher has no focus and specificity, and the articles and grammars throughout the lectures, so that students can not feel the same about the scene dialogue and knowledge points. About this aspect, the advantages and disadvantages of the two teaching methods are very obvious. In the process of students participating in the actual role-playing, they can fully demonstrate their own personality and learn English actively. At the same time, it can enrich teachers' teaching practice and make teaching and learning complementary.

#### **Effectively Develop Students' Ability to Listen, Speak, Read, and Write**

For a long time, the dilemma of Chinese English teaching is that most students can not be able to communicate fluently with English after several years of English learning, which is commonly known as "dumb English." The reason is mainly that traditional teaching mode focuses on reading and writing of English education, ignoring the exercise of listening and speaking. In addition, influenced by the language environment, most students are embarrassed to speak.

The role-playing teaching method has a good solution to this problem. Without a language environment, we create a locale ourselves. On-site grouping, each group simulates different scenes. Everyone in the group plays their own role and communicates in English. Whether it is good or not, in this relaxed and casual atmosphere, students can overcome the problem of opening up first. And the enthusiasm of learning makes it possible for students who can communicate fluently in the group to effectively promote students who have difficulty communicating and form a good interaction.

#### **Develop Students' Cooperative Spirit and Communicative Competence**

In the future, the society demands elite teams. Therefore, in addition to basic business skills and professional knowledge, the requirements of personnel in all walks of life are more focused on individual teamwork. The role-playing teaching method requires students to conduct scene simulation and course study in small groups. It is a team building process, requiring students to

communicate smoothly and work together to complete. The degree of mastery of English knowledge varies, and it is impossible to complete it at one time. This requires mutual tolerance and help between students to complete the learning task. Most of the adult students are temporarily organized, and the level of understanding between students is low. This process can greatly enhance the communication skills of students and cultivate the spirit of teamwork.

### **Problems and Solutions of Role-playing Teaching Method in College English Teaching for Adult Education**

As there is no real language environment, English teaching has encountered great difficulties. The role-playing teaching method formed in response to this situation has a strong pertinence and is also a demand of the times. It can train students' practical English application ability through simulation scenarios to the greatest extent. However, in the actual research process, the author finds that some teachers and students have different opinions on this method. At the same time, he also puts forward some problems in the practical application of this method.

#### **Problems of Role-Playing Teaching Method in the Practical Application**

First, under the design of the actual scene pattern, it is out of touch with the actual demand or the content is too shallow, and the composition of authenticity and communication is too low. Most of them organize simple conversations based on textbooks. The plots and dialogues are relatively old-fashioned, which cannot attract students' interest and lose the original teaching significance.

Second, in the classroom teaching, the teacher can directly grasp students' learning situation through the form of questions and tests, and can teach students for the problem many times. However, the role-playing teaching method only selects some simple expressions, and does not play the role of learning English language.

Third, the role-playing teaching method focuses on forms, and students group is simply organized for teaching needs. As this teaching mode is relatively new, teachers can't accurately respond to students' classroom performance. Teachers have a kind of attitude towards the performance of students that good students are not recognized, and students with poor grades have no goals and efforts.

Fourth, accepting the traditional teaching methods and the requirements of exam-oriented education for many years, the focus of students is still focused on the study of language knowledge. Meanwhile, teachers can not effectively guide students to switch between the two teaching modes, affecting learning effect.

#### **Solutions to Problems of Role-Playing Teaching Method**

Interest is the best teacher. To learn English well, teachers must first help students to change the sense of "awe" in English learning. Successful English teaching needs to help students build an interest in English. In response to the above problems, solutions are showing as follows combined with the actual needs.

First, do the task design. The scene chosen for role-playing teaching cannot be based solely on the content of the textbook. In order to achieve practical and useful teaching effect, it is still necessary for the teacher to make some preparation. Besides, the dialogue of the scene should be down-to-earth as much as possible, instead of using the textbook dialogue.

Second, in the teaching process, teachers should guide students to pay attention to language forms. Students are not only to say it, but also to express a sentence with accurate grammar and pronunciation. Teachers should integrate the learning of English language knowledge into role-playing teaching, and at the same time pay attention to correcting the pronunciation of students and strive to overcome the "Chinese-speaking English."

Third, teachers should carefully observe each student's performance of each group and establish a comprehensive and reasonable evaluation mechanism. Teachers should actively give feedback and guidance on the performance and problems of students in the role-playing process. Teachers should give encouragement to good students, and give guidance and help to students with poor performance.

Fourth, teachers must form their own unique teaching style. Teaching style is a direct

manifestation of the teacher's personality charm. The humorous, funny and friendly teachers can directly influence the students' interest in learning. In the process of teaching, teachers should patiently communicate with students, use a friendly and peaceful attitude to help the shy students, and be more patient with students with lower grades. At the same time, teachers should find out the problems in the students' learning process in time, and help them to solve it.

In the application of role-playing teaching method in college English teaching for adult education, teachers must pay attention to the design of fresh and practical topics, and comprehensively mobilize students' interest in learning. With the continuous development and maturity of this method, it will play an important role in the college English for adult education, as well as the English teaching in primary and secondary schools and higher vocational colleges.

## **Reference**

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