

# The Idea of "Human-oriented" of General English Education in Universities of Chinese Medicine

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**Abstract:** The ideas of "human-oriented" General English in universities of traditional Chinese medicine can be interpreted as that teachers use English as a tool to develop the students' general qualities with both internal and external training and the traditional Chinese medicine as treasures, solve the existing problems in teaching process properly and achieve it with "students" as the center of teaching, which emphasizes the moral sentiment and the cultivation of students' quality. Finally, all the efforts will be contributed to shaping the comprehensive internationalized Chinese medicine talents in the new era.

## 1. Introduction

The theory of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is the precious cultural heritage of China. With the severe challenges of the new century, it is an important responsibility of universities of TCM to inherit and develop the Traditional Chinese Medicine as treasures. The implementation of General Education for contemporary college students is a major trend in the development of Higher Education from now on<sup>[1]</sup>. Therefore, the idea of "Human-oriented" of General English Education in the universities of TCM is that teachers take English as an important instrument to enable Chinese Medicine students to inherit the humanistic tradition and get the knowledge of TCM, and then complete the historical mission endowed by the country and the times.

## 2. Research on General English Education in Universities of TCM

The universities of TCM take advantage of the "Human-oriented" idea of General English Education to vigorously cultivate Chinese Medicine students to become "perfect" people with noble sentiments, independent personality, broad knowledge and practical ability, so as to achieve the goal of the universities of TCM to benefit the people. Professor Wu Dingmin in Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics put forward the theory of "Three Sets of Cars" for General English Education, "Foreign language ability, cross-cultural communication awareness and multi-disciplinary knowledge are the basic elements that high-quality talents should possess, so the three functions are all related to Quality Education. Among them, English language teaching is the "Job" of College English and the "personality" function of College English curriculum. Cross - cultural communication and General Education are the 'functions' that College English can take into account, and the common tasks of both College English and other courses in Quality Education.<sup>[2]</sup>

## 3. The Significance of the Idea of "Human-oriented" in General English Education

General Education is a "Human-oriented" comprehensive quality education. The "Human-oriented" idea of General Education mainly refers to using English as a means to learn the knowledge of literature, history and philosophy, and to absorb the spiritual achievements accumulated by human beings for thousands of years, in order to enable students to have independent personality, noble character and taste, the correct critical power and values, the

innovative thinking and the good cultivation, that is, the emphasis on the training of individual English language ability, the emphasis on moral sentiment and the cultivation of students' quality, and more efforts to shape the comprehensive Internationalized Chinese Medicine talents in the new century.

### **3.1. English "Bridge" across China and the West**

General English Education in universities of TCM pays much attention to the English practice ability of each student. "The purpose of education is not the formation of manpower, but the development of manhood."<sup>[3]</sup> The cultural connotation and humanistic feelings in language learning experience embodied the flexible use of English and the direct use of English as a direct carrier, and students can actively promote Chinese medicine to the world and learn from Western advanced medical experience, and strive to integrate the outstanding achievements of human medicine for the benefit of mankind. Therefore, General English Education in universities of TCM is the need to "advancing with the times" to cultivate Chinese medicine genius in the new century.

### **3.2. Humanistic Edification and "Medical Benevolence"**

General English Education emphasizes humanistic feelings, focusing not only on the language as tools and the knowledge of humanities, but also on sentiment and beliefs, advocating the idea of "fraternity", loving the brilliant achievements of all great civilizations, loving truth, beauty, loving nature, and loving all the lives. Chinese Medicine have the dual attributes of both natural sciences and humanities, and the humanistic attributes are more intense, which directly has a positive impact on the concept of "Medical Benevolence" of Chinese Medicine.

### **3.3. General Knowledge and Self-cultivation**

General Education shows the word "General", that is, the Science and Liberal Arts Association and the ancient and modern Chinese and foreign countries will associate<sup>[4]</sup>. Moreover, Chinese Medicine practitioners are demanded "to gain the knowledge of astronomy of geography and get along well with people." Therefore, General Education with English as a medium is more conducive to opening the eyes of students, cultivating the spirit, promoting thinking and increasing wisdom. In today's informatization, the acquisition of knowledge is easy. It is difficult for students to have the ability to organize and utilize knowledge. What is more important is the character and cultivation. Some scholars say that character is more important than learning. It can be seen that the idea of "human-oriented" is conducive to both internal and external training.

## **4. Problems of the "Human-oriented" Idea in General English Education**

The General Education in universities of TCM emphasizes the "Human-oriented" idea, but there are obvious problems and deficiencies in the implementation.

### **4.1. Similar "General Education" "Not Subject to Water and Soil"**

The implementation of General Education in Chinese universities is a matter of recent years. This is not only the effect of the international exchanges of Higher Education, but also a profound reflection on the inherent needs of Chinese Higher Education<sup>[5]</sup>. In recent years, although General Education has had a certain impact on many universities of TCM, and they have made beneficial adjustments to the student's training plan. However, with the specific content and practice, there is still the problem of "content disorder and poor quality". At the same time, the "specialization" of Traditional Chinese Medicine in universities of TCM has impaired the essence of General Education, because the academic sub-disciplinary system specializes knowledge and also makes knowledge divided. Usually only a variety of humanities electives are just a form of copying and it still pursues scores of CET4 or CET6 in General Education. There is no real General Education to cultivate real general practitioners of TCM. As a result, the concept of General Education must be updated. Otherwise, this form of "General Education" can only lead to the result "not subject to water and soil".

## **4.2. Being Short of Good Teacher in General English Education**

In universities of TCM, General Education has been restricted by the qualifications of teachers, and there are only a handful of real General Education experts. If the teacher's theory of General English Education in TCM is weak, it is impossible to set a reasonable General English course; they do not understand the emphasis on "education" rather than "teaching" and should have urged students to learn independently and gain the ability to learn knowledge broadly; they can not let students learn knowledge and at the same time feel the unremitting efforts, bold innovation and rigorous and realistic quality of the scientists behind the knowledge. Everything cannot be discussed, because this is often more important than the knowledge itself. This is from "teaching" to "learning" of "information" which is also the form of education for each student in General English Education. Therefore, the "human-centered" idea of General English Education requires teachers to use English as a tool, and to meet the needs of every student and the needs of all-round development, so that students can improve themselves while surpassing themselves; while enriching personality and development ability, they has also become qualified citizens of society. However, the present faculty is not as good as it is, and the students trained by Mr. Dong Guo are more and more confusing.

## **5. Realization of the “Humanism” in General English Education**

What is needed in today's society is the "perfect" people who have independent thinking habits and strong desires for knowledge, which can summarize and create through analysis and speculation. Therefore, the "human-centered" idea must be infiltrated into teaching.

### **5.1. “Students” as the Center and General Education “Localization”**

General English Education is ultimately a strategy of cultivating students with English as a tool, that is, independent, knowledgeable and comprehensive. And , it is essential to focus on “students” so that they are not only professionals but become comprehensive ones, including lofty ideas, a high social responsibility, keen critical ability and innovative ability, inheriting the wisdom of human and pursuing the truth with courage. Specifically, it urges students to read widely, inherit the humanistic tradition, think independently and innovatively, develop freely, integrate different knowledge and lay the foundation for the achievement of new era talents with promising vision, elegant spirit and great emotions. In the Class students should be encouraged to discuss to improve their oral English.

In the General English Education, we cannot blindly copy the Western educational experience. We should set reasonable and practical General English Education courses for the characteristics of students and the needs of all-round development in response to the actual situation of universities of TCM, and that is General Education "localization." This must be combined with national conditions and school conditions, so that our General English Education is based on the historical foundation of Chinese civilization. Ancient philosophy and Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism, and Chinese traditional culture can be said to be in the same vein. Without understanding its cultural background, it is very difficult to understand and grasp accurately and properly. Students should make up the traditional culture lesson, which is not only the responsibility of Chinese Medicine students to inherit and promote traditional culture, but also the necessary foundation for the professional courses. However, General Education cannot be confused with “big hodgepodge” without teaching requirements or curriculum design. Instead, it should be combined with credits to carefully design several core courses of General Education, which are less and more precise, using English as a tool for teaching. With desalination of the profession, we strive to achieve the organic combination of "professional talent" and "spiritual adult". Only such a veritable General English Education can play a greater role in the existing organizational structure of universities of TCM, grasp historical opportunities, and build on Chinese cultural traditions to achieve the integration of Chinese Medicine and international standards.

## 5.2. “Highly Respected Teacher” in Various Forms

With the General English Education in universities of TCM, the "educational" role seems to be easy, and actually, the teacher's humanities literacy, knowledge structure, academic attainments and teaching methods are all of very high requirements. General English education needs to strengthen the study of basic subjects such as literature, history, and philosophy. Teachers use English media, choose content as much as possible to achieve a wide range of topics, rich in voice, suitable for listening, speaking, reading and Writing with various language skills training. Based on the characteristics of different subjects such as traditional Chinese medicine, acupuncture, massage, marketing, and management, the teacher demonstrate splendid English explanations, so that students can familiarize themselves with their majors with a wide vocabulary, and improve students' ability to use language comprehensively in order to be more adaptable to future career challenges.

In addition, we must organize a variety of extracurricular activities, whether it is English speeches, debates, dramas, songs, etc., which can mobilize the students' enthusiasm for General English Education and understand the collision and integration of written English and practical applications, assist and extend the classroom. All of that reflects the true self and shows the extraordinary skills of contemporary college students. For example, in every academic year, an English drama competition is held. Through in-depth understanding of Chinese and English historical and traditional culture, students choose the content suitable for the stage performance, self-editing, self-directing, self-acting, and then the student representatives judge the rankings. This not only mobilizes the initiative of students to learn, expands knowledge and improves the comprehensive use of language skills, but also strengthens the general education and quality training for students.

## 6. Conclusion

General English Education is a broad, non-professional, non-utilitarian education of basic knowledge, skills and attitudes <sup>[6]</sup>. In addition to the use of courses, textbooks, and the teaching methods, teachers use English as a tool to inspire students to analyze, criticize, and expand to actively think. Moreover, General English Education must also combine the various extracurricular activities on campus and the invisible curriculum of campus culture, so as to get rid of the difficulties of the disciplines of universities of TCM and the difficulty of learning tasks. It is also essential to cultivate the Chinese Medicine students and meet the challenges of the future. In short, General English Education universities of TCM must be based on the historical foundation of Chinese civilization, break through the limitations of traditional Chinese medicine theory and integrate knowledge in various fields to expand into the world. The "human-oriented" idea is focused on students whose humanistic cultivation and comprehensive quality should be the special theoretical systems and the way of thinking of TCM. It is also a powerful guarantee for cultivating high-quality Chinese medicine talents in the new century, with the harmonious society composed of people who are harmoniously growing and should assume responsibility for all humanity.

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