

The Study on the TBLI in the Ideological and Political Theory Education Oriented College English Course

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Abstract. Xi Jinping holds that each course in colleges and universities should have the ideological and political theory education function. College English course, a public compulsory course, should accomplish the multiple teaching goals of imparting knowledge, cultivating the students' abilities and educating the students. "Theme-based language instruction", also known as TBLI, is the most suitable teaching concept in second language teaching, which can also promote the ideological and political education in College English course.

Keywords: ideological and political theory education in college English course, TBLI, College English course.

1. Introduction

At the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities in the year 2016 General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "We must persist in taking improving the moral standard of people and cultivating the useful talents as the central link, and carry out ideological and political work throughout the whole process of education and teaching to realize the goal of educating people in the whole process and in all directions, striving to create a situation when China's higher education highly prospers." [1] He also points out "Much importance should be attached to the channel of classroom teaching; ideological and political theory courses should be strengthened in the process of being improved; the affinity and pertinence of ideological and political theory education should be strengthened to meet the needs and expectations of students' growth and development. All other courses must fulfill their responsibilities so that all kinds of courses and ideological and political theory course go together to generate a synergistic effect." [2] This is a scientific summary and concentrated explanation of "the ideological and political theory education in all courses".

2. The Relationship between the "Ideological and Political Theory Education in College English Course" and TBLI and "Marxist View of All-Round Development of Human Beings"

2.1 The Concept of "Ideological and Political Theory Education in College English Course"

"Ideological and political theory education in all courses" is an educational concept of which the basic idea is that all the courses in the university have the dual function of imparting knowledge, cultivating ability and ideological and political theory education, and all the courses bear the role of building the college students' world outlook, outlook on life and values. As a public course with a long period of time and a large number of students, College English course not only has the function of imparting knowledge, developing the students' ability of listening, speaking, reading and writing, and more importantly, and it also needs to play the role of carrying out the ideological and political theory education.

2.2 The Definition and the Characteristics of TBLI

Briton et al defines that TBLI "refers to a language class in which the syllabus is structured around themes or topics, with the linguistic items in the syllabus subordinated to the 'umbrella' organizing function of the theme which has been selected". [3] TBLI is a concept which emphasizes the teaching and learning of English knowledge and abilities based on the subject matter, and the teaching mode

is to guide the students to discover in the process of learning called inquiry learning. The focus of inquiry learning is not only the learning of knowledge itself, but the ability to build knowledge, and to learn in complex and meaningful context. In a TBLI class, through participation and cooperation to solve real problems, students' critical thinking ability is cultivated, and the combined aim of imparting knowledge, kindling students' enthusiasm for learning and healthy development of personality and humanity can be realized in the true sense in the process of learning.

2.3 Marx Believes that Education is the Only Way to Create a Fully Developed Person. [4]

The ideological and political theory education oriented College English course is to embed the ideological and political education into the teaching system of college English course, to ensure that college students form correct value cognition while acquiring knowledge and skills and then realize the liberation and development of individuality in the process of improving individual ability. The goal of the TBLI concept, the goal of ideological and political theory education oriented courses, and the theoretical nature of Marxism on the all-round development of human beings are the same with the last constituting the inner theoretical foundation and the fundamental value goal of the first two.

3. The Advantages of TBLI in “Ideological and Political Education Oriented College English Course”

3.1 TBLI can Dispel the Doubts of Teachers.

First-line college English teachers are the main practitioners of “ideological and political education oriented college English course” and play a vital role in the course. At present, many college English teachers have doubts about the concept of “ideological and political education oriented college English course” and they are worried that it will weaken teaching objectives of knowledge acquisition and ability cultivation. Some teachers even think ideological and political theory education oriented college English course is actually an ideological and political theory course. The concept of TBLI can help the first-line college English teachers to clarify the relationship between the goals of college English teaching and “ideological and political theory education oriented college English course”. The theme-based teaching is based on the theme, and advocates students' inquiry-based learning, so that students can learn both language knowledge and ability in the process of inquiry. Moreover, in a meaningful situation, the process of cooperative problem-solving promotes the education on ideals and beliefs, values and moral concepts, thus the aim of educating students can be achieved.

3.2 The TBLI Concept can Help Teachers to Easily Sort out the Ideological and Political Theory Education Elements and the Ideological and Political Theory Education Functions Contained in the Existing College English Textbooks.

Taking the New College English Integrated Course as an example, in the first three volumes of a total of 18 texts, the ideological and political elements and ideological and political education functions can be summarized according to the theme, and some themes have more than one ideological and political education functions.

3.3 TBLI can Promote the Establishment of Ideological and Political Theory Education System.

TBLI can fully exert students' initiative before the class, during the class and after the class, helping teachers to fully understand and consider the generality and uniqueness of students' ideas to determine practical and attainable ideological and political education goals. TBLI conforms to the cognitive characteristics of students, thus realizing the moral education very naturally. It can also promote further improvement of the teachers in the process of teaching, hence enhancing both learning and teaching and achieving a win-win situation. In the ideological and political theory education oriented college English course which adopts the “theme-based instruction” concept, teaching can serve as a stimulus to stimulate the ideological and political literacy of the English

teachers, who will think improving the ideological and political literacy as their intrinsic needs instead of external requirements, thus laying a solid foundation for the implementation of the long-term mechanism of enhancing the ideological and political theory education function in the college English course. TBLI is based on cooperative and constructivist learning theory. The cooperative learning theory emphasizes that the teaching process is a process of information interaction; cooperative learning should be centered on learners and learners' interaction, emphasizing the interactive process of problem solving. In the TBLI teaching mode, the course is organized in small groups.

theme (the titles of the units)	ideological and political education elements	ideological and political education function
Conspicuous Consumption Tales of True Love Friendship	outlook on life, outlook on values (core socialist values)	beginning with building right outlook on consumption, on love and on friendship, guiding the students to build the right world outlook and outlook, laying a solid foundation for building the core socialist values
Emerging Adulthood Freshman Year. Deaf DJ Going Offline Determination	bettered personality good habits	guiding the students to fully understand themselves and establish beliefs and ideals; cultivating the students' ability of being independent and perseverance; helping and guiding the students to develop good habits to achieve their goals and beliefs
Pioneers of Flight Meeting Statesman The Stories of Nazi Germany (Tales of true love)	the spirit of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics, patriotism education national spirit	enabling the students to adhere to the Chinese cultural stand; cultivating students' patriotic sentiments carrying forward the national spirit
study abroad working holiday.	International view and horizon	cultivating and broaden the students' international view and horizon developing students' ability to think critically
Cultural differences	cultural differences	cultivating and broaden the students' international view and horizon; developing students' ability to think critically; cultivating students' intercultural communication skills; enabling students to stick to the position of Chinese culture and help students build confidence in Chinese culture; cultivating students' patriotic sentiments
Digital age Maker movement	Zeitgeist, creative thinking	inspire students' interest in new things in the future; stimulating students' innovative thinking
The water problem Living Green	ecological thinking, creative thinking	cultivating students' ecological awareness; stimulating students' innovative thinking

Before the class, the teacher determines the theme and the ideological and political education function contained in the theme, and “throws” the theme to the students, and arranges the students to prepare materials according to the theme in groups, but the ideological and political education functions contained in the theme cannot be told to the student. The theme determined must be attractive and unique which can fully stimulate the interest of the students, diversify the students'

thinking and give full play to the initiative and enthusiasm of the students. Through the integrated analysis of the materials related to the topics submitted by the students before class, the teachers should generalize and extract the students' views in these materials. In this process, it is necessary for the teachers to understand the similarity of the students' viewpoints, meanwhile pay full attention to the differences. During the class, the teacher guides the students into the topic-related scenarios, presents the students the view held by most of the students and the unique views held by only a few students and asks the students to discuss or debate. In the process of discussion and debate, the group mates argue and cooperate helping each other, and inspiring each other, at the same time, the teachers should conduct timely and in an appropriate way, inspiring the students and summarizing the views to enable the students' to have an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the theme to help students establish a right viewpoints. After the class, the teachers can hold a series of extra-curriculum activities such as speech contests, a style contest, etc. according to the ideological and political theory education functions contained in the recent classroom theme to strengthen the ideological and political education function of college English. These extra-curriculum activities are extension of the ideological and political theory education in the class which can enable the ideological and political theory education to develop to a broader and deeper level, and enable the English course to go together with other courses to lay a good foundation for the establishment of ideological and political education system.

4. Conclusion

The concept of “theme-based instruction” provides insights to the formulation of teaching objectives and the writing of textbooks; provides a practical way to integrate ideological and political education elements into classroom teaching; promotes the improvement of the ideological and political literacy of the college English teachers; promotes the advancement of learning as well as teaching. Taking teaching concepts as the starting point, classroom teaching as the main position, and teaching materials as the main line, promoting the comprehensive penetration of pre-class and post-class ideological and political education will accelerate the construction and implementation of ideological and political education oriented college English course.

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