

The Study on Chinese College English Curriculum Construction under the Background of Ideological and Political Education

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Abstract: In China, college English curriculum has its own unique characteristics. Strengthening the ideological and political construction of college English curriculum can provide support for the Chinese construction and promotion of ideological and political education. This paper illustrates the concept and background of curriculum ideological and political education and analyzes the advantages of college English curriculum for ideological and political education. Meanwhile, it discusses the strategies of ideological education of college English curriculum in terms of the improvement of teachers' ideological quality, the choice of the teaching material, the attention to the balance between demands and needs, improvement of the teaching design and methods, and the perfectness of the evaluation and management system, which hopes to better promote the construction of college English course for ideological and political education.

Keywords: College English, Curriculum ideological and political education, Strategies.

1. Introduction

General Secretary Xi Jinping in 2016 pointed out at the China's National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities that "classroom teaching should be well used as a channel to improve the pertinence of ideological and political education, and ideological and political work should be carried out throughout the whole process of education." At the same time, "all kinds of courses should be in the same direction as ideological and political courses to form a collaborative education effect". China's Ministry of Education in 2017 issued the Implementation Outline of Project to Improve the Quality of Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities. The outline puts forward the concept of curriculum ideological and political education, points out the importance of educational reform with curriculum ideological and political work as the goal, and emphasizes the construction of an integrated education system to get through the "last kilometer" of education. In 2019, General Secretary Xi pointed out the importance of ideological and political course at the college teachers' forum of ideological and political theory course, and emphasized the issue of exploring ideological and political resources in other courses cooperating with ideological and political course to realize the whole process and all-round education. In June 2020, China's Ministry of Education arranged and explained the promotion of curriculum ideological and political construction in the Guiding Outline of Curriculum Ideological and political Construction in Colleges and Universities. Under such circumstance, the concept of "curriculum ideological and political education" has made higher requirements for higher education, and at the same time it gives clear direction for higher education construction of curriculum ideological and political work .

In the field of higher education, the concept of "curriculum ideological and political education" was formally put forward in 2014. Since then, the concept and connotation of curriculum

ideological and political education have been constantly expanded and enriched. Curriculum ideological and political education is a kind of educational idea, which means to take moral education as the basic task of education, integrating ideological and political education into every link of curriculum teaching so as to achieve the purpose in subtle and silent way. The idea calls for seeking relevance by combining ideological and political education content with professional knowledge. And it emphasizes the improvement of students' professional knowledge and ability while conducting ideological and political education for students so as to enable students to form correct values and outlook on life and realize the goal of ideological and political education in the curriculum.

2. Advantages of College English Curriculum Construction of Ideological and Political Education

As a public basic course, College English course is similar to ideological and political theory course in teaching objectives and objects. At the same time, college English course has its own unique advantages, and College teaching itself has the function of ideological and political education with the characteristics of tool and humanity. College English courses aim at cultivating students' cross-cultural ability and comprehensive application ability, providing a platform for students to deeply understand the cultural differences between China and the West, which is playing a great role in building cultural confidence and identity for college students. College English courses have various themes, rich teaching content and long teaching duration, which is more conducive to the development of ideological and political construction, especially in moral education and ideological and political implicit education. Therefore, college English courses and ideological and political theory courses have a high degree of compatibility.

However, in the present college English teaching practice,

most English teachers still give priority to the traditional teaching mode, which focus on the cultivation of the students' basic language knowledge and skills level. College English curriculum contains a large number of western culture and values, ignores the teaching of Chinese traditional culture and the improvement of students' political thought level. This makes students more susceptible to the infiltration of Western ideas and ideologies when they are confronted with different values in English learning. They are unable to actively export and carry forward China's excellent traditional culture which lead to the cultural aphasia occurs from time to time. Some college students also have deviation in personal thought and cognition, and even prefer and identify with the mainstream western culture, which puts China's excellent traditional culture at a disadvantage in education.

Therefore, under the current international background, the ideological and political construction of college English curriculum is imperative. Combined with ideological elements in the courses, ideological and political education of college English curriculum can help students have clear understanding of cultural differences, cultural self-confidence and improve their ability to establish a firm socialist ideal faith.

3. Strategies of College English Curriculum Construction of Ideological and Political Education

3.1. Improving Teachers' Ideological and Political Quality and Cultivating Their Ideological and Political Ability

The improvement of college English teachers' ideological and political quality and ability plays a key role in curriculum ideological and political construction, which can be listed as follows:

First of all, teachers should pay attention to the study of Marxist theory in spare time, and improve their moral cultivation and ideological and theoretical level through reading original works and literature.

Secondly, teachers should update their teaching concepts and arm themselves with the idea of ideological and political education, changing the traditional teaching methods based on examination and employment. Meanwhile, they should learn from different teaching methods and means in order to improve the ideological and political education of college English courses. At the same time, teachers should continue to explore and optimize the teaching content and teaching design so that the educational function of college English courses can be brought into full play unconsciously. Teachers make proper evaluation between Chinese and western cultural differences and let the students to know more about China's outstanding traditional culture, the construction of socialist core values and the communist party of the great achievements with Chinese characteristics to enhance the students' cultural confidence.

In addition, colleges and universities should pay more attention to the cultivation of teachers' ideological and political ability, providing teachers with ideological and political training platforms so that teachers can set a good example for students, and become the practitioners of knowledge and action and the guide of students.

3.2. Choosing Textbooks with Rich Humanistic Connotations

Teaching materials are the main source of the dissemination of teaching content and thought as well as the basis of achieving curriculum objectives and educational objectives. When choosing textbooks, textbooks that can meet the ideological and political requirements of current college English courses and reflect ideological and political ideas should be chosen. At the same time, the traditional college English textbooks, which mainly introduce western culture but have a low proportion of Chinese culture, should be timely reconstructed. When the textbooks that embody the ideological and political teaching concept can be designed, contents reflecting China's social system, scientific spirit, history and culture should be added. At the same time contents comparing Chinese and foreign cultures can be added in after-class exercises, especially in translation and writing exercises so as to enhance students' cultural perception and critical thinking ability. In this way, college English can better excavate resources and enrich its humanistic connotation in the course construction. Of course, qualified colleges and universities can also develop school-based textbooks to better get the ideological and political functions of college English courses.

3.3. Emphasizing the Balance between Teaching Supply and Student's Demand

In the ideological and political teaching of College English course, many students have low learning efficiency and no interest in learning due to the imbalance between supply and demand, thus the teaching effect is not good. The ideological and political teaching of the curriculum involves the education of world outlook, outlook on life, values, patriotism, virtue, culture, ideals and beliefs and socialist core values. During the teaching of language knowledge to students, ideological and political content should be selected and integrated according to students' needs and interests. Meanwhile, ideological and political teaching should be carried out in a targeted way by improving teaching methods and means so as to better realize the function and goal of ideological and political education in college English teaching.

3.4. Improving Teaching Design and Innovating Teaching Methods

By putting ideological and political education programs into college English courses, and combining knowledge imparting and value guidance, college students can not only improve their knowledge level, but also enhance their cultural confidence. In order to cultivate the socialist core values of college students and enhance the ideological and political education function in the humanistic education in teaching English courses, the teachers should try to find a point of correspondence between the orientation and nature of college English courses. The teaching design should have a complete system and ideological and political content. According to the different themes of each unit, the relevant ideological and political elements should be explored and integrated into the college English teaching process.

Teaching method is the important means in the teaching process, and it is an important link to realize the goal of ideological and political education. Before class teaching, teachers dig deeply into ideological and political elements in

the textbook, divide students into groups, and ask students to collect relevant materials in the form of group cooperation. In the process of teaching knowledge, the questions raised by students are sorted out, the targeted design of teaching activities is emphasized, and ideological and political content is integrated into the teaching. The setting of teaching links can include introduction, teaching, discussion and summary. Through the form of question introduction, students' interest in learning and value guidance are improved. Teachers integrate ideological and political elements while analyzing the teaching content. For example, when explaining western culture, the teachers increase the teaching of Chinese traditional culture and explain the economic development of western developed countries at the same time, which can increase the great achievements of China's socialist construction. While combining with ideological and political materials in teaching, teachers can also mobilize students' enthusiasm by adding in-class tests so that students can think more actively and enhance their independent initiative. Compared Chinese and Western cultures objectively by means of tests, students can establish correct values and enhance students' cultural confidence. In the discussion and summary part, the teacher asks the students to review the knowledge and summarize the relevant ideological and political content so that the students can reflect on it and realize the sublimation of ideological and political content through practice and consolidation. In addition to theoretical teaching, English teachers can carry out ideological and political debates and speech contests and other activities through practical teaching to create environment and atmosphere. And other ways to be used to cultivate students' sense of social responsibility and patriotism.

3.5. Improving the Evaluation System and Management System, and Strengthening the Curriculum Ideological and Political Construction System

Reasonable evaluation system is an important means of curriculum ideological and political reform. In the previous evaluation system, emphasis was placed on the result evaluation of students' language knowledge and ability. First of all, in the ideological and political construction of college English course, the result evaluation and the process evaluation are combined, and the examination of students' moral education goals in the process evaluation is increased. Besides knowledge and ability, quality or ideological and political goals should be added to the teaching objectives. After completing the teaching tasks of the unit, students' moral education is evaluated in the form of scores or grades. These evaluations can be used as the reference conditions for students to join the Party. Secondly, in order to realize the comprehensive evaluation of students and improve their thinking ability and cross-cultural communication ability, it is necessary to change the previous results-oriented evaluation method, and integrate curriculum thinking and politics into the evaluation method. In the process assessment of College English course, in-class and out-of-class assessment, online and offline assessment can be organically combined. In addition to the in-class tests on ideological and political content, students' performance in class and extracurricular activities which includes English speech contests, contest of the history of the Party in English and the translation the works of Marxist-Leninist in English can be organized. Of course, there are other ways to cultivate students' problem-

solving ability and critical thinking ability.

A sound system can effectively guarantee the development of ideological and political education. In order to ensure the orderly development of ideological and political construction of college English courses, colleges and universities should take moral education as the basic task of education. Colleges and universities should have regular discussions on teachers' thoughts to understand their ideological trends. Teaching and research activities are carried out regularly so that teachers can discuss the existing problems of subject knowledge, and at the same time, teachers' political theory accomplishment is constantly strengthened. In teaching and research, teachers majoring in ideological and political courses can also be invited to participate in discussions to summarize and explain the ideological and political content by modules, and answer questions and clarify other's doubts. The educational administration department of colleges and universities should coordinate the relationship between teachers and administrators, mobilizing their enthusiasm to strengthen the cultivation of talent quality. At the same time, the university should give preferential policies to excellent teachers in the aspects of performance appraisal, professional title evaluation and teaching evaluation. Only in this way can arouse teachers' enthusiasm and initiative to study ideological and political theory, innovate and implement ideological and political teaching mode more effectively.

4. Conclusion

College English curriculum is a public basic course with a wide audience. The integration of curriculum ideology and politics in college English teaching plays a great role in promoting ideological and political education in colleges and universities. College English ideological and political courses aim at the cultivation of talent quality by taking moral cultivation as the basic task of education, integrating excellent traditional Chinese culture and socialist core values into college English teaching, which can meet the needs of all-round development of college students. College English curriculum construction of ideological and political education seeks ideological and political resources in teaching content and incorporates ideological and political elements in teaching so that students can subtly strengthen their ideological and political orientation and ideals and beliefs while learning language knowledge. It is of great significance to explore ideological and political contents in college English courses, carry out ideological and political education, cultivate students' values and enhance their critical and cognitive abilities. Only by strengthening the ideological and political construction of college English courses, realizing the integration of knowledge teaching and value guidance, and reducing the infiltration of negative and undesirable thoughts and cultures, can the educational function of college English courses be better brought into play and be promoted more effectively.

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