

RESEARCH ON IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN COLLEGE ENGLISH COURSE UNDER THE BACKGROUND OF COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

The ideological and political education of college English course should focus on the teaching goal of combining knowledge teaching with value guidance, and strive to put moral cultivation into the teaching. During the Covid-19, English teaching is not only to help students communicate and understand western society and civilization, but more importantly to encourage students to pay attention to all aspects of how the world views China. Through the reform of teaching objective, teaching content, teaching mode and evaluation system of ideological and political education in College English course, we try to maximize the ideological and political elements contained in this course, arouse students' intrinsic value and emotional resonance through appropriate inspiration and guidance, and improve students' political thought, patriotism and moral cultivation according to the characteristics of this course.

KEYWORDS: ideological and political education; college English course; reform; Covid-19

INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 poses a big challenge to Chinese society and raises many questions for education. How to turn the impact of the epidemic into teaching content, gives students national education, patriotic education and disaster education under the current situation, encourages and stimulates students to realize that this is a big challenge shared by the nation, and cultivates college students' awareness of crisis, sense of mission and sense of responsibility. In response to the call of the Chinese Ministry of Education, the Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial Government and the Provincial Department of Education, almost all colleges and universities in China have carried out online teaching in response to the spirit of "closing school without stopping teaching and learning". Although online teaching can play an emergency role during the epidemic, the essence of education is not only the learning of knowledge, but also the cultivation of core competencies. The suspension of classes is not a comfort to anxious students, nor a simple copy of "classroom teaching" to "online teaching". Instead, it is suggested to make the epidemic become a big class for students, so that the young people can learn from, reflect and remember this crisis. Without epidemic education, it's easy for students to forget this crisis. The author believes that the online teaching during epidemic aims to improve students' critical thinking and strengthen their own judgment.

During the war against the epidemic, students could learn from what they could not normally learn in class. Since we choose to have classes, we need to consider the reform of teaching content and the

innovation of teaching mode. How to integrate English education with ideological and political education, and spread the “voice of China” to the world is a major issue faced by college English teaching reform during the epidemic.

1. The Background of Teaching Reform of Ideological and Political Education

In 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized that the ideological and political education in universities should be carried out throughout the whole process of teaching. It is essential to gradually upgrade ideological and political theory courses, which is an important guarantee for training future generations who are well-prepared to join the socialist cause. In recent years, the curriculum of ideological and political education has aroused widespread resonance. Various colleges and universities have focused on the fundamental task of moral education and the comprehensive exploration of the reform of ideological and political education. Strengthening the ideological and political moral cultivation of college students cannot be accomplished only by ideological and political theory course, but also by integrating into the whole process of teaching. All kinds of courses and ideological and political theory courses can go in the same direction, forming a synergistic effect and realizing all-round ideological and political education, so as to enhance the penetration, inspiration and affinity of ideological and political education.

Ideological and political education emphasizes that all courses should undertake the function of “teaching and educating people”. All courses should focus on the goal of combining knowledge imparting and value leading. The key point of ideological and political education is to maximize the ideological and political elements contained in professional courses, and build a multi-channel coordinated education platform, such as the combination of online and offline, the combination of in-class and after-class, and the combination of theoretical teaching and social practice.

2. The Necessity of Ideological and Political Education Reform in College English Course

The teaching reform of ideological and political course requires that all courses in colleges and universities, including English and other public courses and professional courses, should reflect the connotation of ideological and political contents as far as possible, and improve students’ political thought, patriotism and moral cultivation according to the characteristics of the course. College English course is a compulsory public course for all college students. Its class hours are long, and it is also the most prominent course of cultural exchange, confrontation and blending between China and the West. Moreover, this course takes a centralized teaching form with diversified teaching contents and methods, which is also a very popular course among students. This is why it can be a good choice for ideological and political education in a long run. (Yang Xueqin, 2019)

How to make good use of the advantages of ideological and political education in this course is a big challenge that colleges and universities are facing. For a long time, the ideological and political function of College English course is relatively weak. On one hand, the selection of teaching content mostly comes from British and American countries, including the people, things and cultures of those

countries. The content about China accounts for a small proportion in the teaching materials, which is not conducive to the cultivation of college students' cultural self-confidence, and can not undertake the ideological and political function of "spreading China's voice and telling China's stories" (An Xiumei, 2018). On the other hand, some teachers are not used to integrating social resources into teaching resources. They cannot integrate up-dating cases and materials into the classroom-teaching. As a result, English teaching design cannot effectively integrate into China's rapidly changing ideological and political education. In addition, western capitalist countries have been trying to promote values such as democracy, freedom and human rights in various ways to penetrate into Chinese youth. Some college students still can't distinguish the decadent ideas from capitalist ideology. Therefore, college English teaching should adhere to the correct political orientation and value orientation, with the thinking of "absorbing the essence, rejecting the dross and adapting foreign things for Chinese need", and dialectically treat national culture and foreign culture from value guidance, knowledge imparting and ability enhancement.

3. Reform on Ideological and Political Education of College English Course during Covid-19

The value of college English teaching for "ideological and political education" is mainly reflected in its orientation, complementarity and promotion. Unlike other courses, English is a language course in which we cannot talk about theory, give examples and do experiments. Instead, we should infiltrate moral education into language learning. We should refine the cultural genes and education points contained in English courses and transforming them into socialist core values. Ideological and political course cannot be separated from life. Especially in this special period of the epidemic, although we have lost life, health, wealth, but we have also gained a lot: responsibility, confidence in the political system and cultural self-confidence, all of which provide good teaching materials for ideological and political education.

3.1 Deepening of Teaching Objectives

Online teaching is not the direct replication of traditional classroom teaching. It usually needs a new teaching design, and combine the theme, knowledge and ideological and political elements to achieve the effective connection and integration with college English teaching objectives. The ideological and political education of college English course should focus on the teaching goal of combining knowledge teaching with value guidance, and strive to put moral cultivation into the teaching. Good ideological and political education should not only be rooted in China's national conditions, but also look more broadly at the state of the world. During the period of epidemic in China, foreign media reported one-sided and untrue. For the sake of their own interests, European and American countries have a negative impact on world stability, while China, as a new force in the world pattern, is trying to explore the way of world prosperity and enhance its international image. During the Covid-19, English teaching is not only to help students communicate and understand western society and civilization, but more importantly, to encourage students to pay attention to all aspects of how the world views China. We should cultivate students' national consciousness, firm confidence in our

political system, and have the communication ability and political awareness to tell the world a good story of China and show the new image of China.

3.2 Adjustment of Teaching Contents

The foundation of ideological and political education is the course. The quality of the course largely depends on the choice of content, and whether the ideological and political value can be achieved is mainly determined by the political, ideological and effective of the course content. If there are only readings in the textbooks and no readings based on the epidemic, “closing school without stopping teaching and learning” is actually of little significance. Therefore, the English teaching materials selected during the epidemic should keep pace with the times, and truly reflect the reports of different countries on the epidemic in China, so as to analyze the different attitudes towards China. In the class, students will learn foreign journals which tell us how the world views China and make a series of comments on China’s political, economic, cultural, social and ecological civilization construction. The materials selected including the positive reports of the world’s major official media on Covid-19 in China, and some of the foreign media’s seemingly objective reports mixed with negative views to discredit China in the fight against the Covid-19, as well as speeches by domestic and foreign leaders and diplomats at international conferences.

College English course involves translation teaching. Translation is a sacred work. We should adhere to correct political attitude and viewpoint. To achieve this goal, we must get more resources, and help students to form correct thinking and value by analyzing different materials. Taking the translation of news as an example, ideological problems cannot be avoided in news translation. Only after the ideological problems are rationally sorted out can we converse the language. For example, “One Belt, One Road” project was mentioned in a news in such a sentence “...to inoculate countries from bad deals under One Belt One Road.” Under the epidemic, everyone is familiar with the word “inoculate”, for example “inoculate people against Covid-19”. Whereas in this sentence, it uses the word “inoculate” to express the meaning of “guard against”. It can be said that the words are quite vivid. But the “One Belt One Road” project in this news is metaphorically referred to as a “disease”. Another example is the use of the word “evaporate” in the description of “Ma Yun disappeared” by Agence France Presse. Compared with the word “disappear”, “evaporate” implies ironic meaning. Such examples tell us that in the process of learning English, we should pay special attention to the political overtone in the translation of political discourse with Chinese characteristics. The translation of political discourse at the national level should be very careful. Political overtone may be intentional or unintentional. As college students in the new era, they may become a professional translator after graduation. It is compulsory for them to learn Chinese overtone in English. In order to understand the overtone expressed in English, it is necessary to have enough language accumulation and to be sensitive to words.

In the process of online teaching, the extensive use of information technology has brought opportunities for the enrichment of resources. How to select course materials suitable for professional

education and ideological and political education from the vast information sources reflects teachers' professional quality. Take the report of "China Sacrifices a Province to Save the World from Coronavirus" by foreign media as example, first, we should guide the students to fully understand the original text, and guide them to experience the advantages of China's system and the strong leadership of the Party through the appreciation of foreign media's report of "blocking a city, saving a country, saving the world". Then, we should also guide the students to experience the ideological problem through some foreign countries' negative reports on China, so as to further strengthen the students' love for the Party and for the nation. In the stage of language analysis, teachers teach students the characteristics of English news, such as the passive voice used in English to describe news facts, but the use of passive voice in certain sentence patterns will weaken the role of the doer of action. Therefore, when encountering sentences that need to highlight the executive power of the Chinese government, we should turn the passive voice into the active voice. This is a good integration of professional teaching and ideological and political education. Moreover, using the computer-assisted translation to extract the 20 most frequent words and related expressions in reports about Covid-19 to construct a unified professional terminology database for students to use in their studies not only enriches course resources, but also improves the compatibility of teaching and social development.

The adjustment of teaching content enabled students not only to learn new words and new sentence patterns related to Covid-19, but also to improve their English language expression ability, and at the same time guide them to get patriotic education. By realizing knowledge imparting, ability enhancing and ideological edification, the ideological and political education is penetrated into the teaching of College English course. (Shi Yujiao, 2019)

3.3 Integration of Teaching Modes

The key of ideological and political education is not to spread the ideological and political knowledge, but to arouse students' intrinsic value and emotional resonance through appropriate inspiration and guidance. Because of the epidemic, the traditional face-to-face teaching method has been replaced, and the emotional communication between teachers and students has been hindered. However, by changing the way of teaching and learning, we have to use the different platforms for online teaching. We should focus on the interactive function of these platforms, and guide students to participate in the online-class to ensure the acquisition of knowledge and the generation of ideological and moral education. Although the epidemic is merciless and has blocked us from returning to school, the network teaching has made us back to the school routines.

By discussing with the colleagues, we have selected the best and most suitable online platform, intelligent teaching tools and instant communication methods. We have prepared different plans in advance according to the network situation at any time to avoid the influence of the poor network, and have informed the students of possible situations and plans in advance to avoid all kinds of on-the-spot problems. We can use smart teaching tools for roll call before the class, upload learning materials and assign homework after class. We can also use instant messaging tool's group video function to carry

out routine 10 minutes of English vocabulary dictation during the class. Using power point plus voice teaching, the course can be listened repeatedly to facilitate students' review. Through the interactive software to communicate with students, we can keep their concentration and record the whole process of teaching and learning data. Education is essentially a kind of service. During such a special period, the service should meet the requirements of all students. As for those families with insufficient hardware and network, a simpler online teaching method can be selected.

Task-based teaching method can be implemented in the class. The tasks, rules and scoring standards can be set according to the teaching content. The students can complete the tasks assigned by the teachers in groups through online discussion, and then show their results online. For example, we urge students to pay attention to the news about epidemic in China before the class. Then students take turns to complete the English broadcast of touching deeds and moving stories about epidemic in China in the class. Students are required to translate the real events about experts such as Zhong Nanshan and Li Lanjuan and ordinary volunteers who pick up medical staff, and then broadcast their heroic deeds in groups. As for the pre-class arrangement, for example, we can ask students to think about the relationship between China's epidemic control and China's national conditions and culture before class. Then we can guide students to collect information, discuss in groups and cultivate students' critical thinking. Students can use the language knowledge and skills they have learned to express their views on current affairs, so as to realize mutual "moral education" among students. (Yan Biyu, 2018) Take CCTV's news "WHO: China has done the best it can do" as an example, we can use the form of online discussion and interaction to guide students in groups to sort out the relevant measures of the Chinese government in the fight against the Covid-19. Then we can use the form of voice broadcast to encourage students to report how China's speed and spirit are shown during the epidemic, so that all students can understand the advantages of China's system. By comparing with some Western countries, students will develop their patriotic spirit. Based on students' independent comparison and thinking, this kind of emotional experience is undoubtedly more in line with the original intention of the ideological and political education, and to a large extent expands the connotation and value of "closing school without stopping teaching and learning".

3.4 The Reform of Evaluation System

Teaching quality is the endogenous driving force of teaching reform, and teaching evaluation is an important means to guarantee teaching quality. Through examination and evaluation, teachers can check the teaching effect of the course, so as to adjust the teaching plan in time. During the special period of epidemic, the evaluation method should be flexible and formative evaluation should be adopted, including the achievement of teaching objectives, the completion of learning effect, the combination of ideological and political design, and the overall evaluation of teaching effect. We should pay attention to the process assessment, such as the posts in the message board. All the posts can be saved for a long time. After the normal in-class teaching is restored, the teacher can count the students' online participation into the average grade at the end of the term.

CONCLUSION

Chinese General Secretary Xi Jinping once pointed out that education should be closely linked to the destiny of the country and the future of the nation. Every crisis should be an important “opportunity” to fulfill the responsibility of moral education. College English course should be naturally integrated with ideological and political education, so as to make the ideological and political education function invisible and more prominent. Through the reform of teaching objective, teaching content, teaching mode and evaluation system of ideological and political education in College English course, we can improve moral education in teaching, and train students to understand the differences between Chinese and Western cultures with objective and dialectical thinking by means of online teaching. Starting from the three aspects of value guidance, knowledge teaching and ability improvement, ideological and political education should be internalized in the mind and externalized in the practice, so as to guide contemporary college students to be youths with responsibilities.

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