

# **Developing Strategies of Intercultural Education in the Translation Teaching for English Majors**

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**Abstract:** Recent years, China has established closer relationships with other countries along with its increasing comprehensive national power and the constant pushing of economic globalization. College students' intercultural education training in the translation teaching can effectively help themselves understand the related cultural connotation through languages and characters, and promote their translation skills. Therefore, colleges should constantly improve students' intercultural awareness, construct excellent teaching staff and increase the related teaching methods to strengthen students' intercultural level. This paper mainly discussed the specific methods to improve the developing of intercultural education in the college translation teaching through analyzing its meaning and current situation.

## **1. Introduction**

Along with the constant development of economic globalization, all countries have deepened with each other in economy, politics, culture and other aspects. Culture, however, has a plenty of contents, including: languages, characters, folks and customs, eating habits, costumes and values. It is accumulated in the long-term development of a country, and it is indeed an intangible wealth<sup>[1]</sup>. In order to adapt to the current state of social development, modern qualified talents must know the culture around the world. The essential purpose of college translation teaching is to improve students' English translation skills, help them make accurate information translation according to offered languages, provide the communication platform for the world's cooperation, and enable the smooth proceeding of cooperation. In order to make accurate translation for offered information, students must deeply master the culture of all countries. Therefore, colleges are supposed to constantly strengthen students' intercultural training and awareness, promote their English translation skills, and provide more English translation talents meeting with the demands of social development for our society.

## **2. Meaning of developing intercultural education in college English translation teaching**

### **2.1 Effectively improve students' language abilities**

As for English majors, students' language learning ability has a direct impact on their learning efficiency. Traditional English translation teaching is just limited in cramming with words, sentences and grammars, which is harmful to students' language learning ability and interest, and teaching quality[2]. So colleges should pay attention to the intercultural education to help students gain a better understanding with culture around the world. Language is built on the basis of culture, so mastering culture is of great benefit to having more accurate expressions in translation. In addition, intercultural education can effectively boost students' language learning abilities, and help them change their identities to translate and use local language as native speakers.

### **2.2 Meet with the related requirements put forward by international communication**

Along with our dramatically increasing comprehensive national power and economy in recent years, China has established closer and more frequent communication with other countries, enterprises and individuals. Learning English is corresponding to the current social development.

Particularly, intercultural education enables students to satisfy relevant social requirements and become excellent talents for English translation. Culture is reflected by language, namely, language is a carrier of culture. Intercultural education can give students an access to foreign folks and customs, social backgrounds, national awareness and values. It is able to maximally reduce cultural conflicts in the communication with others enjoying different cultures, effectively strengthen communication efficiency, help people understand each other better and deeper, and promote personal ability of International communication[3].

### **2.3 Promote students' basic English language skills**

Translation refers to the full mastering in four aspects: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Effective intercultural training can help students have deeper understandings with global culture and better abilities in these four aspects[4]. In order to accurately translate the material and vividly manifest the author's emotion, students have to precisely understand the writer's purpose, the writing style and connotative culture.

### **2.4 Give impetus to the communication and development of domestic culture**

Both cultural exchange and integration need translation to achieve. In the process of English translation, translators can introduce advanced culture from English countries to China, and effectively communicate Chinese culture abroad to realize the cultural communication among countries. Extensive and profound Chinese culture is the fruit accumulated by our ancestors. Therefore, it is an unshakable duty for every English learner to communicate excellent Chinese culture to the whole world. So enhancing intercultural education in colleges can effectively promote the communication and progress of domestic culture, train more high-quality English translation talent meeting with social demands, and farther spread unique Chinese culture around the world.

## **3. Current situation of intercultural education in English translation teaching in Chinese colleges**

### **3.1 Related teachers' insufficient cognition with intercultural education**

The increasingly developing era has made some Chinese colleges pay attention to intercultural education, but in the real teaching process, teacher of English majors don't have enough cognition with intercultural education. Most teachers still use traditional English teaching model, which means merely having students reciting words, sentences and grammars, and entirely ignoring related intercultural education. The result is that students' English translation skills are not effectively promoted and college English teaching objectives are unable to be reached<sup>[5]</sup>.

### **3.2 Rather backward teaching equipments and models**

Currently, traditional cramming teaching model is still adopted in most Chinese colleges, treating students as the can to carry knowledge, and teachers are just responsible to input knowledge into the can. Teachers only focus on students' memory to words, sentences and grammars, ignoring the training and improving of students' language ability. Students fail to use English knowledge they have learnt in real communication for lack of corresponding English practical teaching. Although their grades seem to pretty good, students are weak in listening and speaking. It is also the reason why there are lots of students with "high grades but low abilities" in our society. Limited by capital, there is of shortage of corresponding extracurricular books and listening equipments in some colleges, which is bad for students' English learning. And facing the poor learning result, teachers could do nothing. Such a teaching model heavily affect students' learning with intercultural knowledge<sup>[6]</sup>.

### **3.3 Single teaching contents of intercultural education**

In the process of training students' intercultural awareness, what teachers mostly do is to compare foreign and Chinese culture, and explain the similarities and differences. However, not enough coverage of foreign history and relevant cultural connotation results in students' narrow

understanding with foreign culture. There are various factors for this phenomenon. Maybe teachers keep their habitual teaching habits, thinking the comparison can help students have deep memory and learn better, but they fail to realize such teaching contents are too single<sup>[7]</sup>. Also, the reason may be that teachers' insufficient cultural quality cannot have a comprehensive and deep teaching with foreign culture. In addition, the shortage of related textbooks in some colleges badly affect the smooth development of college intercultural education.

### **3.4 Relatively low level of related teachers**

The constantly deep education reform advocated in our country has greatly improved college English teaching level in recent years. And the requirements for college English teachers are also increasing. However, there still exist English teachers with rather low level in some Chinese colleges. Affected by examination-oriented quality, some college English teachers still use traditional cramming teaching, totally ignoring the teaching of intercultural contents. It is hard for intercultural education to smoothly develop in English translation teaching. Besides, most college English teachers don't have the real experience of living abroad, so their understanding with foreign culture is just from books or films. It is hard to give a comprehensive explanation for students, now that they themselves lack of the overall understanding with foreign culture.

## **4. Methods to promote the developing of intercultural education in college English translation teaching**

### **4.1 Constantly strengthen students' and teachers' awareness of intercultural education**

English teachers should be encouraged to enhance their attention and awareness with intercultural education in teaching English translation. Colleges can arrange regular training about foreign and domestic cultural quality for English teachers, and provide enough teaching guarantee on capital and equipments, which can inspire students' attention to intercultural education, help teachers and students get rid of the traditional teaching model and rebuild correct teaching objectives, and gradually make intercultural awareness integrated into practical teaching of college English translation<sup>[8]</sup>.

### **4.2 Construct a teaching team with professional translation skills**

Teachers are irreplaceable in the teaching, especially for English translation teaching. The smooth development of college English teaching requires related teachers to possess professional knowledge and certain management ability. At present, colleges have attached more importance to intercultural education along with the constant changing of international situation, and relevant teachers must equip with corresponding awareness and quality. Only those professional English teachers with profound cultural connotation can effectively train students' intercultural knowledge and set up a good example for them. What's more, colleges can also employ foreign teachers to help students get deeper understanding with foreign culture and learn the application habits of native speakers. Students can effectively feel the differences between Chinese culture and others, and arouse great interest in learning intercultural knowledge. The construction of professional teaching staff can essentially ramp up students' English translation skills<sup>[9]</sup>.

### **4.3 Constantly improve and reform intercultural teaching contents**

The lack of intercultural textbooks in most Chinese colleges has badly affected the development of college intercultural education. In order to enhance the teaching quality, it is necessary to formulate a textbook that meet with students' real learning conditions. And this textbook is where foreign culture is systematically explained and compared, through which students can have comprehensive and deep understanding, and better communicate our excellent culture.

### **4.4 Increase teaching methods of intercultural education**

Internet technology has been available in every industry in the present era. College English translation teachers can take advantage of Internet to collect cultural knowledge and train students

through multi-media, such as present teaching contents with recordings, videos or pictures. And they can translate in English to greatly boost students' interest in learning and attention in class. Meanwhile, teachers can recommend some classical foreign movies in class, which can not only promote students' independent learning, but make them gain a better understanding with foreign culture, and lay a firm foundation for superior English translation.

#### **4.5 Enhance students' interest in learning**

Language is a tool that is most commonly used in communication. Students should be encouraged to communicate with teachers and students in English, which can effectively change their awareness with intercultural education. In addition, students can better know the differences between Chinese and English through reading foreign books, seeing films, and researching the subtitles. In this way, they will pay more attention to translation and arouse strong interest in translation.

### **5. Conclusion**

In the constantly developing era, mastering higher ability of English translation means possessing stronger competitiveness in the future job market. And the increasing requirements from our society for English translation talents have decided the greater importance of intercultural education in college English teaching. Intercultural education can effectively promote college students' translation level and cultivate more perfect talents for English translation. Therefore, colleges are supposed to foster teachers' and students' intercultural awareness, constantly strengthen teaching staff, innovate and reform related teaching modes and methods, and facilitate the smooth development of intercultural education in college English translation teaching.

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