

The Application of English Newspapers and Periodicals in English Reading Teaching

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Abstract: In students' English learning, English reading ability is one of the basic skills that students must master according to the new curriculum standards. English reading ability is closely related to the basic skills of listening, speaking, writing and translation, therefore, improving students' English reading ability and level is one of the most important tasks for English teachers. And it is very important to find a way that can not only improve students' interest in reading, but also improve their reading level. As an auxiliary teaching material, English newspapers and periodicals are novel, abundant, interesting and practical. If it is applied to the English reading teaching, it may be able to achieve a certain effect.

1. Introduction

Over the years, the education sector in our country has attached great importance to students' English learning, especially high school English education. On the one hand, senior high school students are facing the test of college entrance examination, on the other hand, senior high school is also an important stage for students to further systematically learn English knowledge. The new curriculum standard requires high school students to master the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and translation in English learning. And for a long time, English reading has always been the emphasis of teachers' English teaching, but even if teachers put a lot of energy and time in English reading teaching, there are still many problems when students learn English reading. Lacking interest in English reading is one of main reasons that affecting students' English reading performance. Therefore, it is very important to enhance students' interest in English reading. English newspapers and periodicals are very interesting, which can also improve students' reading comprehension ability. If teachers can use English newspapers and periodicals as auxiliary materials in reading teaching reasonably, it can not only improve students' English reading ability, but also promote students' knowledge expansion, so it will help students' English reading and learning effectively¹.

2. Senior High School English Reading

2.1 The Importance of Senior High School English Reading

English reading is one of the important part of senior high school students' English learning, on the one hand, English reading ability has an indispensable relationship with skills of listening, speaking, writing and translation, learning English reading can not only enhance students' reading ability, but also enhance their comprehensive language ability, in addition, English reading occupies a high proportion of scores in the college entrance examination papers, from these two aspects, it can be seen that English reading is very important. Therefore, teachers have always attached great importance to the teaching of English reading. With the development of the times and the adjustment of educational concepts, teachers are constantly trying some new methods, patterns and strategies for teaching English reading, which are all in order to improve students' reading ability more effectively, therefore, we can know that teachers also attach great importance to the

enhancement of students' English reading ability, which also embodies the importance of English reading.

2.2 Current Situation of Senior High School English Reading

For a long time, English reading academic performance of senior high school students has attracted much attention. Even though students can realize that the improvement of English reading ability is important for their English learning, they still think that English reading is very boring, and many students still don't like learning English reading, which leads to poor English reading performance of students.

3. English Newspapers and Periodicals

3.1 English Newspapers and Periodicals

English newspapers and periodicals can be divided into domestic and foreign according to the place of publication. Domestic English newspapers and periodicals mainly use English to promote the domestic situation, and foreign English newspapers and periodicals mainly report and promote some foreign news in English, which are very important language materials for English learners. English newspapers have a wide range of topics, covering politics, economy, law, military, culture, education, and art. It can be said to be an encyclopedia². The English curriculum standard for senior high school (2017) mentions that teachers should let students experience more abundant discourse styles, including newspaper and periodicals³. Reading English newspapers and periodicals can not only improve students' English reading ability and increase their interest in English reading, but also expand students' thinking ability and lead them to learn some more extensive knowledge of humanities, science, politics, and geography and so on. Therefore, in senior high school English reading teaching, if teachers can properly choose some English newspapers and periodicals that conform the students' interest and learning needs as the auxiliary materials to teach students English reading, it will be very helpful for teachers' English reading teaching effects and students' English reading learning effects.

3.2 Advantages of English Newspapers and Periodicals

As a kind of reading material for students to learn English, English newspapers and periodicals have many advantages. Here are some advantages of English newspapers and periodicals.

Firstly, English newspapers and periodicals are novel. Compared with the reading contents in English textbooks, English newspapers and periodicals are more novel, the compilation of textbooks is very difficult, so it will take many steps and take a lot of time to compile, therefore, the textbooks cannot always keep up with the pace of the times, but newspapers and periodicals are different, the contents in newspapers and periodicals are the most novel and popular contents, including many social hot spots, popular things and so on. Therefore, English newspapers and periodicals can make up for the relatively old contents of textbooks, so that teachers can choose some more novel contents as reading materials, and the current senior high school students prefer new things, the novelty of English newspapers and periodicals is accord with the characteristics and interests of senior high school students.

Secondly, English newspapers are abundant. The contents of English newspapers and periodicals are very abundant. Whether students like astronomy and geography, or they want to know something about current affairs hot spots, they can find relevant contents in English newspapers and periodicals. Therefore, teachers can select some relevant English newspapers and magazines according to the theme of the reading contents of the textbook, so that students can expand their knowledge and they can understand the contents of textbook more deeply, this cannot only help students review and consolidate the knowledge in the textbook, but also expand their knowledge, including knowing some new words and relevant background knowledge. So this is great way to help students improve their reading comprehension ability.

Thirdly, English newspapers and periodicals are interesting. “Interest is the best teacher”, if students are not interested in English reading, it is difficult for them to learn English reading well, therefore, improving students’ interest in English reading is also an important task for teachers in English reading teaching, which will require teachers to use abundant methods and strategies constantly. In these methods and strategies, letting students read English newspapers and periodicals is an effective way to improve students’ interest in English reading, because the contents of English newspapers and periodicals are not only very abundant and novel, but there are also many reading contents that high school students are interested in, for example, English newspapers and periodicals contain many illustrations, which are beneficial to arouse students’ interest in reading, the improvement of interest is beneficial to let students’ read actively, which can really improve students’ English reading interest and ability.

Finally, English newspapers are practical. Generally speaking, the contents which published in newspapers and periodicals are all the things that happened in real life, it can be seen that the contents in English newspapers are closed to real life, and materials which are closed to life can arouse students’ interest easily; at the same time, students can master some new English words that can be used in life through reading English newspapers and periodicals, which are beneficial to improving students’ ability of communicating with others in English in real life.

4. Strategies of Applying English Newspapers and Periodicals in Senior High School English Reading Teaching

Whether teaching the English reading contents in the textbook or teaching students to read English newspapers and periodicals, if teachers use some effective methods and strategies, it will achieve better effects, the use of teaching methods and strategies can not only improve the teaching effects of teachers, but also help to improve the effects of students’ reading learning. The use of teaching methods and strategies can not only improve teachers’ teaching effects, but also can improve students’ reading learning effects. Therefore, if teachers use English newspapers and periodicals as auxiliary materials to teach English reading, they should also use some effective methods and strategies.

Firstly, teachers should select the contents of newspapers and periodicals reasonably and elaborately. When teachers use English newspapers and periodicals in English reading teaching, selecting newspaper reading materials is an important beginning for using English newspapers and periodicals in reading teaching effectively, it is said that a good beginning is half the success, only by choosing reading materials appropriately can help students improve their English reading ability. Therefore, teachers need to select the themes and contents of newspapers and periodicals carefully, the selection of newspapers and periodicals should be based on students’ learning needs, cognitive characteristics and learning interest, so that teachers are able to choose the English newspapers and periodicals which are related to the contents of the textbooks, which are moderately difficult for students and which can attract students’ interest.

Secondly, teachers should teach students some reading strategies to read English newspapers and periodicals. Whether reading passages in textbook or reading English newspapers and periodicals, it is necessary to use reading strategies, therefore, teachers should teach students some reading strategies to read English newspapers and periodicals, so that students can read them more efficiently. For example, students can look up the relevant background knowledge of the newspapers and periodicals in advance, which can help students understand the contents that they will learn, on the other hand, in English newspapers and periodicals, the information conveyed by headlines or illustrations is very important⁴, so students can predict the themes and contents of the article through the title and the illustrations in the newspapers and periodicals, so as to stimulate students’ interest in English reading and expand students’ English reading thinking; secondly, students can use skimming, checking and intensive reading strategies to read newspapers and periodicals. For example, students can skim newspapers and periodicals to understand the general idea firstly, and then they can read the passage intensively according to their own needs, these are all effective strategies which can improve students’ English reading efficiency. In addition, students

can also use the strategy of guessing the meaning of words, when reading English newspapers and periodicals, students may meet some new words, in this case, students can skim the contents of the passage firstly, then they can guess the meaning of words according to the contents of the passage, and finally they can look up the meaning of words according to the dictionary to determine the meaning of words, it can also help students remember the meaning of these words more deeply.

Thirdly, teachers can divide students into some learning groups. In the teaching of English newspapers and periodicals, teachers can divide students into several groups according to their learning ability and personality characteristics. Whether in class or after class, the members of every group should help each other and make progress together to complete the tasks assigned by the teacher. Students who have relatively strong learning ability need to help other group's members, so that each student can gain something.

Finally, teachers can carry out stratified teaching. In English reading teaching, the main purpose of using English newspapers and periodicals is to help students deepen their understanding of the contents of the textbook, improve their reading ability and expand their knowledge. So we can know, English newspapers and periodicals are the supplement and expansion of textbook and the auxiliary materials for teachers to carry out English reading teaching. Therefore, teachers can carry out stratified teaching according to students' learning ability and level. For example, teachers can choose students with different reading abilities to answer questions according to the difficulty of the questions; teachers can set a basic task that all students must complete, in addition, teachers can assign some additional tasks, students can complete the corresponding tasks according to their reading ability, it can help each student can improve and progress on the original basis.

5. Conclusions

In senior high school English reading teaching, teachers use English newspapers and periodicals as auxiliary materials to deepen students' understanding of teaching materials and expand students' knowledge level. The use of English newspapers and periodicals can just make up for some limitations of textbook, if teachers can combine the teaching materials with newspapers and periodicals reasonably, it can help students improve their reading ability and level. Therefore, the application of English newspapers and periodicals in senior high school English reading teaching is very meaningful.

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