

The Probe of English Teaching in Art Universities

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Abstract: With the development of international culture, economy, trade connection and art communication, Chinese need pour more attention into the education, especially English teaching in college or university education. Because English teaching will promote the students' international communication abilities and give them insights into the world and obtain more chances for major learning and so on ,as well as the art universities. The art universities have faced more chances and challenges in modern society and how should they hold the chances and produce more famous works to service the world? How about their current situation of the English education? This paper mean to research the current situation of English teaching in art universities and sum up the results and lessons, then give ways to deal with their problems.

1. Introduction

In the art universities, their students' major development is connected with their English ability in nowadays. There are too many examples those art students' want to exchange ideas or works with foreign friends are failed because of their poor English abilities. So the art universities should use some energies in English course. To solve this problem, they should pay attention to these points: English curriculum, teaching strategy and method and the textbook.

2. English Curriculum

As we know, the curriculum will display the direction of the major and the knowledge the students learned, however weather the English curriculum meets students' demands or the major development requirements in universities? This research shows that the English course have been arranged no more than four classes one week in most art universities and the course content does not direct at the art students but the common students. Thus, such situation will be very little or not helpful for the art students' major learning. The reason is that suitable content will enhance the interest of art students, which is the psychological factors will push people to study something^[1] and moderate English curriculum will strengthen their memories and then consolidate what they have learned not only English but also the major knowledge.

2.1 The Difficulties of English Course Setting in Art Universities

In the art universities, the English course is not easy to arrange essentially. There are two obvious reasons: the first one is the students' English is poor and they don't want to learn it at all, means they don't have any interest in English learning. So the university will meet the difficulties weather they arrange more or less for students. The second is the university don't have enough facilities for English learning. Such as they lack language laboratory, lack qualified English teacher, even they lack the capital to develop the English teaching work and so on. To overcome such difficulties is not so easy, the art universities should change their mind in English teaching. First of all, the leaders should change their minds, they have to realize that English learning is helpful for art students' major development. English will be their excellent sign in major showing. So the universities should establish their the integrated English teaching system, like employing the professional and creative English teacher, completing the language laboratory, expand English activities to hold students' interest in English learning and so on. And also they could add the English corner, organize the English contest to expand the learning ways arouse their learning desire.

2.2 Principles of English Curriculum in Art Universities

In the new century, English communication abilities have become a basic requirement for the qualified undergraduates. However, how to cultivate students who is not only speak English but also use it in his or her major is a question. So in this part I have done some research in the English course curriculum. The principles as follows:

First, art universities should follow the principle of development academic English course. the university should have clear aim in cultivating students English abilities. According to the developmental strategy of talented person, the university should make the professional English course. It means they should cultivate students' academic English ability and they can change the general or common English course into professional or major English course. For instance, change the public English course into special English like the environmental English, the art English, the design English. Such changes will enhance students' interest and progress their major, at the same time. They can communicate more international friends and read more foreign professional works, giving them more insights into the world.

Second, art universities should follow the principle of development integral curriculum. In university, there are many course for students, so when they arrange the curriculum, they should balance all the courses and pay more attention to the amount of English course.

The last is they should follow educational psychology in English curriculum. No matter which course and teaching which level of students, we should obey the educational psychology. In the teaching activities, teachers should observe the students' psychology activities to conclude their demands and the best learning time. Such as, usually, the language course will be learned better in the morning.

3. Teaching Strategy and Method

Teaching strategy means in the special teaching situation teachers will carry the aims to fulfill the teaching task. it will include method of choice, marital of organization, the normal of teachers and students and so on. The teaching method is, in order to fulfill the teaching task, the interaction ways showed in the whole class between teaching of teachers' and the learning of students'. So teachers play the very vital role in language learning for the students. Not only does the characters or attitudes affect students, but also their teaching strategy and method. However, through the research, it is not hard to discover that almost every English teacher in art university use the same teaching way which is the traditional and simple teaching or we could call it "tell the students". Some teachers even won't finish the whole teaching procedures, such as they made the teaching plan like "backgrounds, teaching aims, teaching contents, homework, and after-class reflection and so on but when they actually make it ,they may be only carry out the teaching contents. Thus, this is the very hard difficulty that the art universities need to resolve.

Firstly, teachers should make a proper and careful teaching plan. Because we know that teaching plan is a structure of the course and from it teachers will clearly know students demands or their foundation of English. So teachers can change the teaching aims or procedure, skills immediately. And most importantly, teachers should fulfill every steps of their plans. And the last not lest, the teachers' after-class reflection will help teacher hold the class and students' desire better and better.

Secondly, teachers should use integrated techniques.^[2] In this new era, the English ability should be excellent not only wring or listening, but also reading and speaking. The whole English class skills teaching should include this four parts. As English teacher and several years English learner, I deeply know the listening is the most difficult techniques to acquire but it is also the most important one in the new century. Because no matter the commercial or academic communication will need the excellent listening such as on the telephone or online meeting. Speaking is the most direct communication way, better oral English will enhance their personal image and also increase the rate of succeed. Reading and writing should be taught let students' forget the Chinese mode. We know Chinese students' have the traditional speaking habit, they may make some Chinglish mistakes, so teachers should stress this point to students.

Thirdly, to make the class be diversity and interesting. The class can not only be as traditional as “only teachers’ telling”.^[3] Teachers could change the teaching form like making the presentation, role play, writing the play or introduce their art works and so on. Meanwhile, teachers could create more resources in teaching not only the traditional tools. They can use then picture in the class which the students’ draws themselves and the quizzes the students’ made themselves and teachers could also pay more attention to their own image, because we know clean and pretty physical appearance will be the very good beginning of the class. It will hold the students’ attention at the very beginning.

4. Teaching Material or Textbook

Students acquire the knowledge mostly from the textbook or teaching material and the textbook is also the most foundation for teachers teaching. So, we all know choosing the textbook is the most important step for the course teaching. Such as for the art students, what kind of book will suitable for them? Weather should the school choose some special English book for them? and how about the current status of textbook choosing?

Due to the research, most art universities don’t choose the special English book for art student. They still use the common textbook, making difficult for those students who want to learn some professional English for helping their major development, causing students losing interest in English learning. The worst influence is that such situation will result in the vicious circle for art students. Because most students have poor foundation in English and the boring course will make their English weaker and weaker. In order to change such situation, the art universities have to be very careful in choosing the English book.

Base on the English teaching and art students’ characteristics in art universities, they choose English book must match two points as follows: First, teachers should analysis the students’ English level carefully. In art university, usually the most student English is poor. So when teacher choose the book which should have the suitable difficulty degree for students’ learning. Secondly, the teacher should take the students’ major development in account. After all, English learning for students is just a tool to help their major development. When the English book conclude some knowledge which is connected with their professional course, it will arouse their interest in English learning. Thirdly, in order to avoid the boring English learning, the text book should be diversified in theme edit. Also they should have wide subject, innovative layout design, the excellent illustration and beautiful sentences and so on. In the book, there could have a section like the famous artist and their masterpiece^[4], which would not only help students learning the English, but also they will learn some professional artists’ stories and the English expressing in the professional work. Such ways must help their major development and arouse their English learning interest.

5. Conclusion

Nowadays, colleges have very vital task in cultivating higher qualified talents. Our country advocate develops comprehensive talents so the English ability should be a necessary ability for students. They will meet more challenges in creating works but they will reap great benefit in having a good English ability, especially the professional English ability. The universities should adjust their English curriculum and make a suitable teaching arrangement. Above all they should develop teachers’ qualities or employ the professional English teachers, increasing the students’ desire and their confidence in English learning and helping them take their works into the world.

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