# Research on English and American Literature and English Teaching

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**Abstract:** British and American literature is an important part of the entire English teaching process and plays an important role in the entire English teaching. In the process of English teaching, with the introduction of British and American culture as the background and the appreciation of classic literary works as the teaching method, students can enhance their ability to appreciate and analyze works while reading and writing in English. By teaching the knowledge of English and American literature, it is possible to cultivate the comprehensive quality of students and comprehensively improve the quality of English teaching.

#### 1. Introduction

The status of British and American literature in English teaching is self-evident, but it has long been neglected in college English teaching. The reason is that there are few college English class hours, limited foreign language level of the students, and relatively weak teachers of college English teachers. However, the author believes that the root cause is still the education concept that emphasizes ability and light quality. Now when it comes to the reform of college English teaching, people think of strengthening the cultivation of students' listening, speaking, reading, writing and other application abilities. Our current college English education is too focused on the training of basic skills. It seems that there is nothing but listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating. When you think of English and American literature teaching, everyone thinks it is an English major and has nothing to do with college English teaching. However, literature is an important branch of humanities, and literary quality, as one of the important qualities of talents, should have a decisive position in higher education.

Mankind has entered the 21st century. The new century is characterized by the trend of multipolarization and economic globalization in the world, scientific and technological progress is changing with each passing day, international competition is becoming increasingly fierce, and international cooperation is becoming increasingly frequent. And this kind of competition and cooperation are ultimately reflected in the competition of talents and cooperation between people. Higher education must adapt to the trend of globalization and internationalization. Therefore, cultivating international talents has become an important task in modern higher education. There is no scientific evaluation system for what it means to be an international talent. However, experts from various countries have reached consensus in some aspects, that is, international talents should have an international vision and international awareness. International talents must maintain a broad perspective, strengthen their understanding of different cultures, and cultivate an attitude of respecting different cultures, because international economic cooperation must involve the cultures of various countries. In addition to the relevant professional background, integrity, dedication, and progress, international talents should at least be familiar with the cultural background of the relevant country, master the language of the relevant country, and be familiar with the market characteristics and operating environment of the relevant country. Foreign language level and understanding of foreign cultures should be the basic elements of international talents. Literature is the art of language and the language of art. It is the best language material for students to learn and imitate. Therefore, learning English and American literature is the best way to improve English. Language and culture are inseparable, and literature reflects the essence of a country's culture. The literature of a country is not only the art of its language, but also the love and hatred of people in this country and the pursuit of truth, goodness and beauty. Literature is a cultural representation of

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life experience. Literary works imply thinking about life, value orientation and specific ideology. Learning British and American literature is an important way to understand Western culture, and it can come into contact with the deep culture that supports the surface culture, that is, the fundamental ideas and value judgments in Western culture, the perspectives often used by Westerners, and the criticism of these perspectives. Only by studying English and American literature with a deep understanding of Western culture, can internationalized talents be familiar with international cooperation and competition and become invincible.

## 2. The Mutual Promotion of English and American Literature and English Teaching

Learning English and American literature can enhance students' awareness of culture. Language and culture are inextricably linked. The content of culture needs to be expressed through language, and the expression of language needs to be filled by culture. Language carries a rich cultural heritage. In the process of learning English, students must first understand the composition of English culture, and then understand the content of English learning step by step. Students 'reading of British and American literature in the course of learning is actually the most direct way to understand British and American culture. To a certain extent, classic literary works of a period represent the cultural essence of the period. The understanding of classic British and American literary works, understanding the thinking range, perspective and value orientation of Western culture, in order to have a deeper understanding of Western culture. The understanding, respect and tolerance of different regional cultures also enable students to form international talents in the subtle learning process.

Learning English and American literature can enhance students' comprehensive English ability. Literary language emphasizes the essence of language and the diversity of languages. Like the Chinese culture, the English wording is also divided into simple oral language and elegant and refined written language. The development of English courses is not only to meet the needs of students in daily life, but also to meet the academic discussions of students. Anglo-American literary works need to provide them with a certain language environment and imitation templates to ensure that students have samples to learn from in the early stages of learning. Through the study of literary works, not only can students expand their vocabulary, but also allow students to learn more about the relationship between context and language sense, not only to meet the needs of students in daily life, but also effectively improve the comprehensive use of English ability.

Studying English and American literature can improve students' appreciation ability and humanistic quality. In British and American classic literary works, due to different writers and different times, the language styles, writing styles, and situational tone of expression are different. This is a problem worthy of students to explore. In literary works, whether it is the choice of words or the layout of paragraphs, whether it is rhythm or rhetoric methods, contains rich cultural heritage, which requires students to feel and recognize in the continuous learning process. Therefore, the study of British and American literary works is not only the study of superficial knowledge, but the need to deepen the cultural connotation in the works. Through a more thorough understanding of culture, language learning is easier and faster.

In view of the necessity of learning English and American literature, in the teaching process, teachers should guide students to feel the charm of English and American literature. Teachers should guide and encourage students to read literary works through more flexible teaching methods, in order to expand students 'horizons in the English learning process, actively explore scientific and effective literary learning methods, and promote students' comprehensive English ability and literary literacy The cultivation of students will make students more confident and more comfortable in the subsequent use of English

#### 3. Current Status of College English Education in China

Lack of organic links with literary education. In the current college English classroom in China, teachers should pay attention to the implementation of English teaching to students with full

enthusiasm and positive attitude during the course explanation, and use the emotional connotation to motivate students 'learning enthusiasm to ensure that students are in the learning process Can really feel the charm of English. However, in the current course of college English teaching in China, teachers 'teaching explanations lack the connection with literary education. Teachers cannot integrate the corresponding thoughts and emotions in the boring theoretical analysis process. Therefore, they cannot effectively mobilize students' enthusiasm for learning and are not conducive to students 'English Improvement of learning effect. Therefore, if teachers want to improve this teaching situation, they should combine literary teaching with English teaching, let students gradually improve their English ability in the process of learning English and American literature, and promote students' English professional quality to be significantly strengthened.

There is a serious lack of aesthetic education. At this stage, under the influence of exam-oriented education ideas, college English teaching in China often pays too much attention to the explanation of basic knowledge and the strengthening of students 'English listening, speaking, reading, writing and communication skills, but the cultivation of students' humanistic literacy and aesthetic ability are relatively Ignorance leads to the students' aesthetic ability in English literature cannot be effectively cultivated. In order to improve this situation, under the guidance of the new curriculum reform theory, teachers should make corresponding optimization adjustments to the teaching content, teaching methods, teaching modes, etc., and truly integrate English and American literature in all aspects of teaching, so that students can learn English In the process of knowledge, I felt the beauty of literature, and gradually cultivated my own aesthetic ability under the subtle influence of literary beauty, improved my comprehensive quality, and promoted the full effect of the aesthetic education of college English.

Students and teachers do not pay enough attention to literature education. In the current English teaching, there is a general problem of "emphasis on information over literature". In order to adapt to the development and progress of the times, the school's arrangement of English courses is mainly on students mastering relevant English terms and the latest information education. , Ignore the educational value of literature, coupled with the setting of grade examinations, most of the English teaching focuses on training students' ability to take the grade examination and knowledge reserves. For example, the study of vocabulary is mainly marked according to the vocabulary requirements of the CET-4 and CET exams, and the practice of the questions is mainly based on the difficulty of the grade test, etc., completely ignoring the importance of literature education. Because the school attaches importance to the passing of grade examinations, it limits the scope of teaching content to a certain extent, and at the same time makes students have narrower knowledge during the learning process, so the teaching activities based on the test only increase the passing rate of the exam. While completely ignoring the essence of English teaching, students' practical ability to use English is not high, and most of the understanding is the surface textual meaning, which has not cultivated the literary cultivation and humanistic quality that students should have.

English teaching content and teaching mode are not novel enough. In the current stage of teaching activities, the teaching content mainly includes knowledge related to vocabulary, grammar and grade examination. For the study of the article, only stay in the expression of grammar and semantics. This is not only not conducive to improving students 'enthusiasm, but also hinders students' further exploration of English learning methods. Semantics is only the consciousness embodied on the surface. Teachers neglect the guidance of the true meaning of the article in the teaching process, which makes students lack a rigorous learning attitude, loses the ability to appreciate the article, and is not conducive to the cultivation of students' comprehensive ability in English Also not conducive to the improvement of English level.

English course schedule is limited. From the perspective of the teacher, the cultivation of appreciation ability requires long-term guidance and accumulation, and it is not done overnight. The short teaching time causes teachers to directly ignore the scope of literary education in teaching, coupled with the influence of exam-oriented education, the test pass rate is always the only criterion for judging the teaching effect, which makes teachers willing to spend more time on more The knowledge of the exam taught that the cultivation of literary literacy has not received the attention it

deserves. Under the influence of various factors, British and American literature education will naturally be marginalized, and no better attention or guidance will be given.

## 4. Infiltration of British and American Literature in College English Teaching

Reasonable setting of teaching goals in the practice of traditional college English teaching in China, teachers often take the improvement of students' English performance and the cultivation of English communicative ability as talent training goals. Therefore, in the process of curriculum setting, basic theoretical teaching and cross-cultural communication are used Teaching is a key content, and I hope to train students into practical talents through English teaching. But in essence, with the further development of economic globalization and the transformation of the knowledge economy, the English professionals trained by traditional English teaching can no longer meet the high requirements of modern society for talents, and students want to achieve greater success in English To gain a certain advantage in the market competition, on the basis of learning basic English knowledge and skills, attention should be paid to cultivating English literature literacy and improving their comprehensive quality. Only in this way can they lay the foundation for the comprehensive development of students in the future. Students are trained to meet the needs of society. Based on this, English teachers in colleges and universities should formulate reasonable teaching goals in combination with the application of English and American literature, carry out corresponding English and American literature elective courses for all students, and integrate English and American literature ideas in daily English teaching, on the basis of ensuring the quality of basic education. Students 'literary literacy has been improved accordingly, providing a solid guarantee for students' comprehensive development.

Scientifically setting teaching courses. In college English teaching in colleges and universities, in order to ensure the full function of English and American literature teaching, we must run English and American literature teaching throughout college English teaching and provide a full range of English teaching activities. Auxiliary. In this process, in addition to infiltrating the teaching ideas of English and American literature in daily teaching activities, colleges and universities should also appropriately set up elective courses in accordance with the teaching needs, and the course setting should not only comprehensively consider students' English learning ability, but also properly grasp The ideological depth of British and American literary works and the educational significance that can be exerted on students' spiritual thoughts. Only after a full range of investigations can students use certain courses to master certain English skills and properly cultivate their humanities. In this process, it should be noted that when setting up scientific teaching courses, teachers should also pay attention to the level of curriculum development to ensure that the course teaching can provide students with step-by-step educational guidance, so that students with different English abilities can be at multiple levels. Gradually improves its own English quality in its teaching, effectively trains students to become high-quality English professionals, and makes corresponding contributions in socially relevant English jobs.

Reasonable selection of teaching materials and teaching methods For the reasonable selection of teaching materials, in order to truly integrate English and American literature teaching into college English teaching practice, teachers should combine teaching characteristics and students 'learning needs to select specific teaching materials in a targeted manner, And teach students step by step according to different levels, so that students can gradually cultivate their interest in English and American literature in the process of hierarchical and progressive learning, and form a strong learning confidence, and then use scientific textbook settings to implement reasonable for students. The teaching guidance ensures that the role of teaching materials can be fully exerted, and the students' English language ability and English and American literature literacy are effectively cultivated. On the basis of setting up special textbooks for students, in order to enable students to make full use of after-school learning time, teachers can also appropriately recommend some English and American literature books for students, allowing students to selectively read according to their own interests and hobbies, and learn by themselves after class provide corresponding assistance to classroom teaching and gradually improve the effectiveness of teaching.

#### 5. Conclusion

The application of British and American literature in college English teaching in colleges and universities has an important function and role, and it has a corresponding positive impact on the cultivation of students 'comprehensive quality and the promotion of students' overall development. Therefore, English teachers in colleges and universities should strengthen the emphasis on English and American literature in teaching practice, properly integrate English and American literature into English teaching, and exert the educational function of English and American literature in a subtle way, so as to strengthen the quality of English education in colleges and universities in China To create conditions for cultivation.

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