Strategies to Strengthen the Effectiveness of English Classroom Teaching in Higher Vocational Colleges in Information Age

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Abstract: No matter what kind of teaching mode and teaching method teacher is adopted in the classroom, the aim is to improve classroom effectiveness and students' learning quality. Through practice and authors' experience of many years, this paper shows that combining the traditional teaching mode with modern and informationized teaching mode can create a good classroom atmosphere for students, and also can improve the classroom teaching effectiveness of higher vocational English. This paper mainly introduces the application of information technology in higher vocational English teaching in information age, and strategies to improve the effectiveness of higher vocational English teaching by means of information technology.

1. Introduction

With the advent of information age, information technology has been widely used, and in result the field of education has been greatly changed. English teaching of higher vocational education in our country is boring, since teachers usually adopt the arbitrary teaching method, and teaching content is limited to textbooks. This kind of higher vocational English education can no longer meet the development of the times, failing to send qualified talents to society. Therefore, educators should actively apply information technology in higher vocational English teaching, do a good job of teaching reform according to colleges' actual situation, improve the effectiveness of higher vocational English classroom teaching, and enhance the quality of students' learning.

2. Inevitability of the Application of Informatization in English Teaching in Higher Vocational Colleges

Compared with undergraduate colleges, higher vocational colleges have a relatively smaller scale, inadequate teachers, and deficient funds to build English teaching. However, the introduction of teaching means with information technology is effective to solve this problem, which can improve the current situation of low effectiveness and poor quality of teaching. Moreover, although the new curriculum reform is being promoted constantly, some teachers still retain the traditional teaching concept. Their teaching ideas and methods are still backward, which leads to students' resistance and boredom. The introduction of information technology will help to change the situation. Most students in higher vocational colleges basically failed in the college entrance examination with weak knowledge base. Teaching means with information technology is conducive to improve their learning enthusiasm and strengthen their knowledge foundation.

The application of information technology in English teaching will bring all-round teaching experience to the students of higher vocational colleges, which is helpful for them to process and understand knowledge completely and strengthen memory. Information technology is also capable of helping students to absorb knowledge quickly and improve English ability by creating situations. This is conducive to their future career development.

3. Functions of the Application of Informationized Teaching Mode in Higher Vocational English Teaching

In the new era, information technology has been widely used in teaching, such as the application of multimedia teaching in higher vocational English classroom, which has changed the traditional teaching method. With information technology, students' emotional cognition will be stimulated from each sensory organ through video, sound, picture and other information elements. Informationized teaching provides English teachers with teaching resources, and more convenience to obtain teaching materials. This will promote students' initiative in learning to a certain extent and also give full play to their subjectivity and subjective initiative. In addition, the application of information technology in higher vocational English teaching is conducive to promote the interaction between teachers and students, increase classroom interaction and realize what the new curriculum advocates which is that teachers are the guider of the classroom, and students are the main body of the classroom. So, it can be seen that, information technology effectively improves students' autonomous learning ability and arouses their interest in English learning. This kind of teaching environment is helpful for students to understand their own learning situation clearly, and then make a reasonable study plan according to their actual situation, so as to stimulate the enthusiasm for learning English.

In English teaching, teachers are capable of enriching the classroom contents through information technology, change the traditional teaching method, and get rid of the monotony and dullness teaching materials. Firstly, teachers are proposed to make full use of Internet technology and collect teaching materials needed, all of which help to save time for collecting information, and provide more thinking time to design classroom teaching methods, so as to promote higher vocational teaching effectiveness. Secondly, there are many sentences in English teaching materials which are difficult to understand. Therefore, it is feasible for teachers to visualize abstract contents through multimedia information technology, such as video, audio and so on, and show them to students more intuitively. In this way, students are able to understand the text and learn the true expression of text in teaching situation, and then improve their English learning ability.

With the arrival of information age, network provides a convenient way to obtain information, and has become an important way for us to live, study and work. In higher vocational English teaching, students can go out of the campus and books to increase their English knowledge and broaden English horizons through abundant network resources. At the same time, network technology in classroom can provide students English movies, English music and so on. It can not only enrich the classroom teaching contents, but also enrich students' lives by offering information on the society, humanities and geography of other countries.

4. Teaching Strategies to Strengthen the Effectiveness of English Classroom Teaching in Higher Vocational Colleges

Teachers are the organizers and guiders of the classroom. To improve the effectiveness of English teaching in higher vocational schools, the first step is to enhance the teaching level of teachers. English teachers are required to have a good professional literacy, master advanced teaching ideas, and freely use information technology in the classroom teaching. Moreover, they are also expected to actively accept new teaching ideas and teaching methods. Colleges are proposed to regularly train teachers, organize teachers to communicate and learn, improve their comprehensive ability, quality, and teaching level. College students are more motivated for learning outside the classroom, so teachers need to make full use of this characteristic to design teaching schemes, establish good teacher-student relations, and attach importance to the optimization of classroom and teaching scenes.

The characteristic of higher vocational education is to train technical talents, mainly to cultivate students' practical ability, so teachers in higher vocational colleges should set up the concept of ability based teaching. Higher vocational English teaching should target the cultivation of students'

practical language application ability, language communication and application ability. Through information-based listening, watching, feeling and other teaching activities, it is feasible to strengthen English practice and increase language skills training, so that students can really become the main body of classroom teaching. The organization and arrangement of teaching contents and situation creation should be based on real life and work environment. Besides, by constructing learning situation and imitating workplace environment, we will be able to offer students chances to practice their English application ability, and strive to achieve the integration of teaching, learning and practice, as well as the unity of teaching classroom and application.

With the continuous development of economy and society as well as the popularization of information products, some information teaching equipment is not as expensive as before. It is no longer a big economic burden for higher vocational colleges to buy information equipment. Therefore, it is necessary for higher vocational colleges to allocate funds to establish and perfect the information-based teaching facilities, carry on informatization reform to teachers and purchase informationized teaching equipment such as computers, electronic blackboards, projectors and so on according to economic strength. Infrastructure construction provides an important and solid material basis for the development of informationized teaching mode in higher vocational colleges. Teachers should make full use of teaching facilities and create a good atmosphere for English learning by setting up various English activities through information equipment in which appropriate stage lighting, music are arranged with information technology, such as English drama competition, poetry recitation, opera performance contest and so on. These will make students have better understanding of English in the process of participating in activities, and provide students with the opportunity to express English. It will not only exercise their English application ability, but also improve their after-school life. English learning groups can also be set up through Internet to solve problems encountered in learning through online and offline cooperation. A good English learning environment can greatly improve the enthusiasm of students to learn English and improve their learning methods.

Situational creation is a common teaching method in teaching activities. In order to improve the effectiveness of English classroom, teachers should pay attention to its validity and authenticity when creating teaching situations. It is worth noting that the situation should be in line with students' learning level and teachers need to control the difficulty since simple situations can not play a role in practice and complex situations may hinder the enthusiasm of students to participate. Therefore, teachers need to combine the contents of teaching materials, appropriately create situation through information software, and stimulate students' interest in learning and enthusiasm for participation. In the informationized context, students can explore, read and think articles independently, and use network to communicate with teachers and other students, so as to improve their English thinking ability. Information situational teaching can lead students to think autonomously, learn pertinently, and change passive acceptance into active discovery.

For a long time, English teaching has been influenced by examination-oriented education. Teachers take the classroom as the main teaching position and pay more attention to the explanation of semantics and grammar. In addition, students almost have no chance to go out of the classroom and communicate or practice in English. With the application of information technology, students are able to communicate with foreign friends through the Internet, which can not only exercise their English communicative ability, but also understand the customs and language habits of English countries. At the same time, this kind of communication and learning is conducive for students to expand the circle of communication, make them learn English in making friends, promote their desire for learning English, feel the joy of learning English, and increase their interest in English subjects. Higher vocational students in the new era are all growing up with information technology, and are affected by various software in the Internet, power grid, and smart phone, among which network communication tools like WeChat and QQ are popular among them. According to this, English teachers in higher vocational colleges can establish online English learning communication groups, extend classroom teaching to off-class, and promote the communication and interaction between students and teachers. When using new media to carry out teaching activities, teachers are

proposed to make full use of the openness, anonymity and equality of the network, and put themselves on an equal footing with students, which can make students speak freely and realize English communication better. The convenience brought by information technology can also enable students to carry out individualized learning at any time, make up shortcomings through the network in time, and strengthen weakness. By communicating with other students and teachers in the English learning discussion groups, students are able to reflect problems to teachers in time, improve deficiency in study, as well as discuss and solve problem actively with other students, so as to achieve the overall improvement of English quality.

5. Conclusion

In a word, in the information age, it is necessary to incorporate a variety of teaching methods with information technology in higher vocational English teaching, in order to keep up with the pace of the times and to train talents who are more suitable for the development of society. Higher vocational English teachers are required to make full use of the advantages of information technology, enrich the classroom teaching contents and teaching methods, stimulate students' interest in learning and use the network platform to expand their vision. The combination of traditional teaching mode with the means of information technology will organically enable students to receive good English education suitable for their own development, convey comprehensive talents for the society and promotes the reform of higher vocational education.

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