

Research on the Selection of English and American Newspapers and Periodicals for the Cultivation of Students' Speculative Ability

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Abstract: The absenteeism of students makes the teaching effect of English majors unsatisfactory. The English and American newspapers and periodicals are the important teaching part of college English majors. In the process of teaching, paying attention to the cultivation of students' thinking ability helps to promote the comprehensive ability of college students. Upgrade. This paper gives a brief overview of the speculative ability, and conducts an in-depth discussion on the selection of the reading and speculative ability of the British and American newspapers, and then proposes an optimization strategy for curriculum reform.

1. Introduction

After entering the 21st century, the country's demand for talents is growing, and the voices of all sectors of society for quality education are becoming increasingly apparent. At this stage, the English majors in China's colleges and universities need to be optimized and reformed in order to adapt to the needs of the society and the development of the times. However, as far as the current teaching situation of English majors is concerned, students' perceptual ability is generally weak, and their actual language output quality is It is ignored by most teachers. For example, only the fluency and accuracy of language are emphasized. The richness and creativity of language content are extremely neglected. As a result, the analytical, comprehensive, judgment and reasoning ability of English majors is particularly weak. "Spotted absent" has become the shortcoming of most college English majors. The selection of English and American newspapers and periodicals based on the students' thinking ability can make up for this deficiency to a certain extent, which will help to promote students to become high-quality composite application talents.

2. Definition of Speculative Ability

The critical thinking skill is the source of the thinking ability. It can be traced back to Socrates and can effectively cultivate students' judgment ability, especially independent thinking ability. Some domestic scholars translate Critical Thinking Skill into "critical thinking ability". Wen Qiufang believes that this has a certain deviation from China's cultural background, and its accuracy is not enough. Because the connotation of speculative ability is rich, it is also more complicated in terms of concept definition. Among them, the more authoritative definition is the "reasonable and reflective thinking for deciding what or what to do" proposed by Robert Ennis, the pioneer of the American critical thinking movement, and the definition proposed by the Delphi report group. Purposeful, self-calibrating judgments. This kind of fearfulness is expressed as explanations, analysis, evaluation, short legs, and explanations of arguments, concepts, methods, standards, or contexts in which judgments exist." It is not difficult to see that scholars The definition of speculative ability is more uniform in essence: speculative ability is self-recognition of thinking, reflection on self-interest and other people's thinking, and regulation and management of self-knowledge. This Abstract thinking ability transforms simple knowledge into more advanced information through the integration and mathematics of the brain, thus forming a more innovative knowledge product. The specific composition of speculative ability will have different performances in terms of cognition and emotion, as shown in Figure 1:

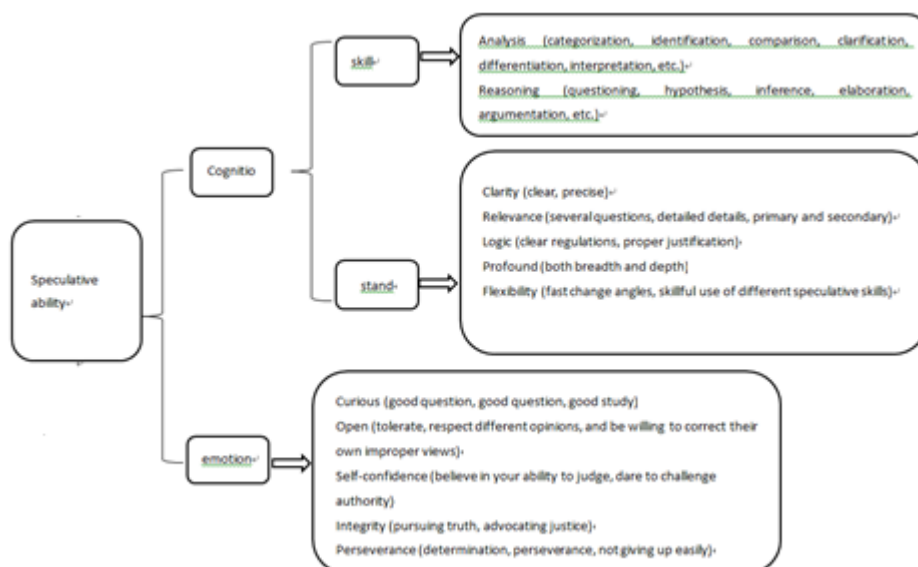


Figure 1 Schematic diagram of the ability to think

3. The selection of English and American newspapers and periodicals and the cultivation of speculative ability

3.1 The selection of English and American newspapers and periodicals helps to develop the ability of speculation

In modern education, the goal of talents training in college English majors lies mainly in the students' thinking ability, the ability to innovate, the students' thinking ability in analysis and synthesis, Abstraction and generalization, multi-angle analysis, and the problem of finding and solving problems. Innovation ability is the main training point. Relevant scholars believe that in the traditional English teaching process, the courses that pay too much attention to English skills training should be reduced. Other types, especially those that are beneficial to students' thinking ability and innovative ability training, can be increased to some extent. However, in the actual teaching activities, college English majors still mainly focus on the students' English skills, and there are relatively few courses that can effectively broaden students' knowledge and thinking ability. In fact, the content of the English and American newspapers and periodicals is very helpful for the improvement of students' English proficiency and the broadening of their knowledge. As early as 2009, Zhejiang University of Science and Technology's "Seventh National College English Newspaper Teaching Seminar" "Many experts and scholars generally believe that the teaching role of English newspapers and periodicals has a high degree of matching with the high-quality composite application talents that the society needs. The content of the textbooks in the English and American newspapers and periodicals is biased towards the development of students' ability, especially for students' thinking ability, analytical ability, comprehensive induction ability and innovative ability.

3.2 There are certain problems in the teaching of English and American newspapers and periodicals

The Anglo-American newspapers and periodicals elective courses are an important part of college English majors. In the process of teaching activities, teachers still have certain problems, which leads to the gap between their teaching effects and expected results, mainly in the following aspects:

First, the teaching method has a lag. Affected by the traditional teaching mode, most college English teachers carry out the teaching activities of English and American newspapers and periodicals, and still use the combination of books and blackboards to teach relevant knowledge. They mainly explain the background and the language knowledge and difficulties in the content of

English and American newspapers and periodicals. However, in the specific teaching process, teachers have neglected the background of teaching content and the comprehensive analysis ability of students, lacking the organic combination of the two, and then guiding students to think deeply about related issues. For example, from the article “Is Washington for sale” in Reader's Digest, the words “lobbyist” appear in the text. The teacher only explains the lexical interpretation and its cultural background. The students' understanding of such vocabulary only stays at the vocabulary. Explain and its source. “Lobbyist” refers to a retired politician employed by a commercial company. It is specifically interpreted as a lobbyist. When a teacher interprets such a vocabulary, in addition to expounding the source of its meaning, it should also guide students to understand the nature of the retirement politician of a commercial company. It compares with the social phenomenon of the Beijing Office set up by major domestic enterprises. In this way, students can effectively cultivate their thinking ability through thinking and analysis.

Second, the content of the textbook is not new enough. Through the medium of newspapers and periodicals, students can learn the knowledge points in the newspapers and magazines, and they can understand the current political news at home and abroad, which is of great help to promote students' interest in learning and their enthusiasm. However, when the British and American newspapers were published as textbooks, the actual teaching effects have changed. The textbooks applicable to colleges and universities cannot be changed in time due to the update of the contents of newspapers and periodicals. This has adversely affected the teaching effect of the selected courses in the UK and the US. For example, in the December 1994 edition of the “Anglo-American Newspaper Reading Course” edited by Duanmu Yi, 40 articles were published between 1989 and 1992. Zhou Xueyi's 1994 edition of the article “Selection of American and British Newspapers and Articles” The publication time was concentrated from 1991 to 1993, and some were published in the 1980s. It is undeniable that classic newspaper articles can encourage college students to have an in-depth understanding of relevant historical culture. However, as an important part of the news media, newspapers and periodicals, if their new ideas are insufficient, will affect students' understanding of the development trend of the times to some extent. In particular, some western developed countries have more advantages in terms of news reporting speed than domestic media. The content of textbooks in English and American newspapers and periodicals is not enough, which has become a major factor affecting the teaching effect. It is necessary for colleges and universities to update English reading materials in a timely manner. Good to stimulate students' interest in learning.

Third, the teaching time setting does not match the learning needs. Usually, most colleges and universities offer a one-semester English-American newspaper selection course as an elective course in the third year of English majors. The teaching hours are 32 hours, which is 2 hours per week. From the practical point of view, the use of only 2 hours of classroom instruction per week is clearly inconsistent with the learning needs. This not only has higher requirements for the teaching mode of college English teachers, but also requires students to fully improve their learning efficiency within a limited classroom learning time. At the same time, teachers need to correctly guide students to strengthen their independent learning, and thus improve the reading level of British and American newspapers and periodicals. Therefore, when formulating the syllabus of the English and American newspapers and periodicals, colleges and universities should pay attention to the organic combination of classroom teaching and students' independent learning, so that college students can acquire more English and American newspapers and magazines knowledge in a limited classroom time, and enhance classroom teaching through independent learning. The purpose of efficiency.

4. The practice of teaching choices in English and American newspapers and periodicals

4.1 Enrich the teaching content

The textbooks selected by British and American newspapers are derived from real life, which can effectively guarantee the authenticity of learning materials, avoid foreign language learning and

actual life, and the news is wide-ranging and judging, especially for real-life events. The article can effectively help students use cognitive skills to analyze, reason and evaluate related issues.

To enrich the teaching content of the English and American newspapers and elective courses, it is necessary to pay attention to topic selection, especially the topics with high interest and controversy, which can fully arouse students to use their existing knowledge to deeply think and question them. In this process, the students' enthusiasm for thinking, analyzing and solving problems is triggered, which helps to promote the cultivation of their thinking ability. For example, in the content of the English and American newspapers and periodicals, there have been topics related to the existence and abolition of the British monarchy, the views on the US Affirm active Action, the attitude of approval or opposition, the bipartisan dispute in the US political China, whether it should go during the university. The military has served for one year, university rankings and evaluation criteria, as well as the pros and cons of guns. In addition, the textbook content of the English and American newspapers and periodicals can be selected from a variety of newspapers and textbooks, and the information is collected from various channels such as the Internet, domestic and foreign philanthropic resources, and news programs. Then incorporate hard news into the theme and combine it with soft news and feature stories to compile course notes. As shown in Figure 2, before the course begins, teachers can divide students into different groups and encourage them to actively search for news and other materials when they match the theme of the course. Students are fully involved in the process of selecting teaching content. The specific content of the lectures is softly collected by teachers. The news is mainly based on the materials collected by the students. When students collect materials, they can also cultivate their ability to analyze, evaluate, and judge.

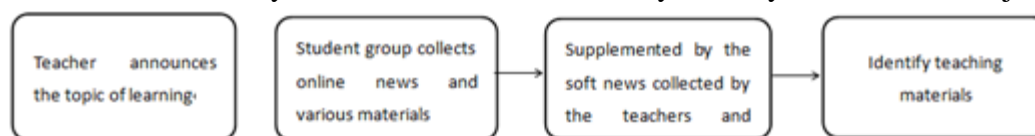


Figure 2 Schematic diagram of enriching the content of the textbook

4.2 Implementing a diversified teaching method

Because the traditional teaching mode mainly adopts a relatively fixed teaching method, most of them are mainly explained by teachers. Students receive more passive knowledge, and their ability of independent learning and cooperative learning is weak, which is largely unfavorable for students' ability to develop their thinking ability. influences. In the teaching process of the English and American newspapers, the teachers should be diversified in teaching methods. Task-based teaching is a way to effectively cultivate students' self-directed inquiry learning. This teaching method takes students as the main object, and students cooperate with other students to learn and master the language while completing the teacher-selected newspapers and periodicals. Knowledge and ability can be effectively improved. At the same time, teachers organize students to conduct group analysis, discussion and summary in the classroom, and guide students to dialectically think about relevant issues. Teachers comb the team's views and compare them to form new discussion points, and then lead the group to conduct new debates. The tasks assigned by the teacher can include many aspects, for example, the students' understanding of the Keywords and expressions of the newspaper articles, the grasp of the theme; the examination of the position of the newspapers and the authors, the examination of the arguments, and the identification of logical errors in the process of argumentation. Question and put forward your own views; expand and extend a certain point of view of the article; analyze and think about the author's writing background and learning objectives. According to different tasks, students can master and recognize more social problems, and make them analyze, judge and distinguish the surface and essence of things. In addition, teachers need to combine modern information technology with the Anglo-American newspapers and elective courses. On the one hand, use information technology to build creative multimedia courseware, set task scenarios (as shown in Figure 3), and guide students to learn through electronic platform feedback. The effect is to effectively stimulate students' interest in learning and enthusiasm for exploration, making them more willing to strengthen cooperative learning. On the other hand, teachers can refer

to the learning of online resources that help the reading of British and American newspapers and magazines can effectively help students to read and think after class.

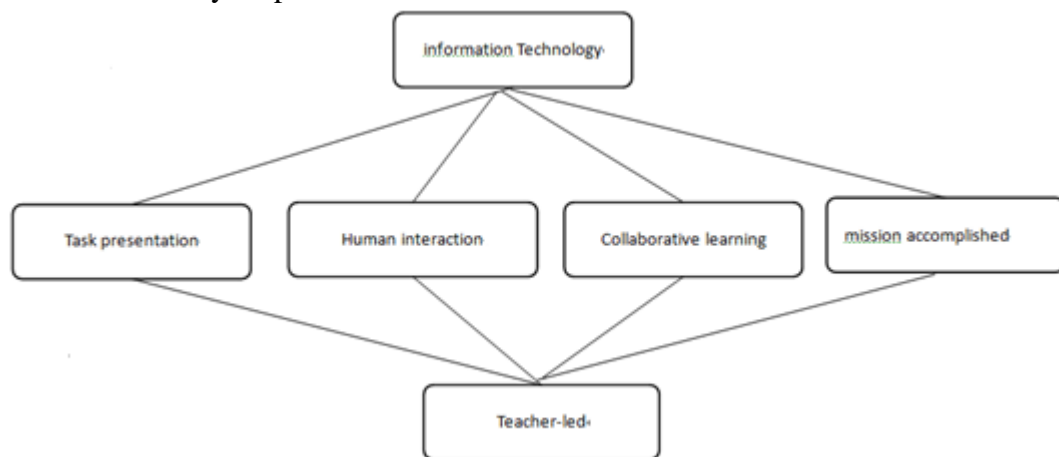


Figure 3 Application of task-based teaching method information technology

5. Conclusion

The selection of English and American newspapers and periodicals has unique advantages in cultivating students' ability to think. Teachers should focus on cultivating students' reading knowledge and reading literacy. It can not only stimulate learning enthusiasm, but also effectively improve students' thinking ability and dialectical thinking ability. In terms of teaching content and teaching methods, focusing on the cultivation of students' thinking ability, it has a positive effect on the teaching effect of the English and American newspapers.

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