

A Study on the Utilization of Applied Linguistics in Contemporary English Teaching

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Abstract: In the context of globalization, the importance of teaching English as a common language in the world becomes increasingly apparent. Applied Linguistics belongs to one of the sub-disciplines of linguistics, which plays an important role in contemporary English teaching. The knowledge of applied linguistics can help students learn the grammar, semantics, vocabulary, writing, and other contents in English, deepen their knowledge and understanding of English, and enhance the effectiveness of English teaching. This paper mainly describes the important role played by English linguistics in English teaching and focuses on its utilization strategies in the hope of providing references on this topic.

Keywords: Applied linguistics; English teaching; Utilization strategy

Online publication: April 29, 2024

1. Introduction

Applied linguistics is one of the sub-disciplines of linguistics, which mainly utilizes linguistic knowledge to solve related scientific or linguistic problems. In English learning, most students are influenced by Chinese learning mode, thinking, and language environment, which leads to poor learning effects. Incorporating the content of applied linguistics in English teaching can change students' traditional thinking about language learning, and make students learn English from a linguistic perspective and apply linguistic knowledge, in order to improve the efficiency of English learning and promote the high-quality development of English teaching in colleges and universities.

2. Advantages of applied linguistics in contemporary English teaching

2.1. Enhancing students' English speaking and writing skills

In traditional English teaching, there are certain limitations such as students can only obtain English knowledge content from teachers or textbooks, so the students' understanding of English knowledge is relatively superficial, and they cannot apply what they have learned to life practice and meet the communication and application needs. This also leads to the fact that English teaching cannot satisfy the diversified needs of

contemporary college students and is inconducive to the development of the cause of English education. With the progress of the times, the demand for the English language is constantly improving and all walks of life have higher requirements for English proficiency in the process of introducing talents. Therefore, in the context of today's employment environment and globalization, teachers in colleges and universities should pay more attention to the practical teaching of English to ensure that students can put what they learn into practice. According to the current social situation, the English language of most of the students in the higher education stage cannot meet their employment or daily communication needs, therefore, the English teaching mode should be reformed to promote the comprehensive development of students' English skills ^[1]. Traditional English teaching focuses too much on listening and reading in English and ignores speaking and writing, resulting in an imbalance in English teaching. In the concept of applied linguistics, students are required to develop English skills comprehensively. Teachers carry out teaching activities under the concept of applied linguistics, which is conducive to promoting the comprehensive development of students' English, so that students can master the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. This can help students gradually improve their writing and oral expression skills in the process of English learning and apply the theoretical knowledge learned in practice, so that they can better cope with employment and their own development, and provide more space for students' future development ^[2].

2.2. Promoting the development of English teaching in the era of modernization

The core of contemporary English teaching is not only to cultivate students' test-taking ability but also to focus on the practical application of English to ensure that students' English learning can meet the development of the country or society, as a greater test of students' comprehensive English skills. Therefore, the concept of applied linguistics should be integrated into contemporary English teaching, so that teachers can carry out targeted in-depth teaching based on the content of the textbook and according to the current development of the country or the times, to ensure that English learning can meet the needs of students in the development of the society and give full play to the value of English language learning. Applied linguistics can change the existing English teaching mode and promote the innovation and reform of the English teaching mode, so that it can shift from theoretical learning to theory plus practical learning, ensure that English learning meets or satisfies the development of the times, and improve the practicality of English learning ^[3].

2.3. Motivating students to learn English

As a kind of language subject, English is relatively boring in content. In traditional English teaching, the main focus is on the teacher's lecture, and the teaching mode and content are too single, which leads to certain limitations in students' cognition and understanding of English; at the same time, this single teaching method lacks a positive atmosphere, and in the long run, students are prone to become tired of learning, which affects the efficiency and quality of English learning and is inconducive to the cultivation of students' comprehensive English skills, resulting in students' poor oral skills and their inability to flexibly use grammar knowledge or dialogues according to actual scenes. Applied linguistics focuses more on students' motivation to learn, and when English teaching is carried out under this concept, targeted teaching should be carried out according to students' characteristics and developmental needs, so that students can learn English in a suitable language environment and can have a more realistic experience of English communication, and stimulate their motivation and initiative to learn. In addition, under the perspective of applied linguistics, English learning is no longer confined to textbook content but pays more attention to the practical application of English, and encourages students to improve their English speaking or writing skills through other ways, so as to promote

the comprehensive development of students' English skills^[4].

3. Strategies for using applied linguistics in contemporary English teaching

3.1. Changing the concept of teaching

In today's information technology background, information technology is widely used in teaching, and so is English teaching. Information technology can effectively promote the innovation of English teaching in colleges and universities and realize the reform of English teaching. Therefore, in the current environment, English teachers in colleges and universities should change the traditional teaching concepts and use information technology to adjust the English classroom. In the implementation process, teachers should integrate information technology on the basis of the original teaching mode to realize information technology teaching^[5]. For example, in the process of English teaching, teachers can use online and offline hybrid teaching, which is mainly based on adding online teaching to traditional offline teaching. Teachers can use micro-classes, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and other online platforms for online teaching. Teachers can upload courseware, materials, test questions, and so on to the learning platform in advance so that students can pre-study before the offline classroom teaching; at the same time, online teaching can also break the traditional teaching time and space restrictions, students can use the online learning platform anytime and anywhere for English learning, review, and so on, to improve the flexibility of English teaching and learning. The traditional English teaching mode is generally based on the teacher's classroom teaching, students can only learn English through the teacher's teaching method. Additionally, the learning method is too single, most English teaching measures the English level of the students through examination, and there is a lack of objectivity and comprehensiveness, which is inconducive to the development of the overall quality of the students, leading to the limitation of students' learning thinking and the inability of the English language to be applied to practice, failing to stay in line with the needs of students' English learning at the higher education level^[6]. The integration of the concept of applied linguistics in English teaching can enable students to learn English from a linguistic perspective. From a linguistic point of view, English learning can not only focus on students' test scores, but should be based on the characteristics of the language discipline, and should focus on the development of the students' comprehensive ability on the basis of the basic teaching of English. At the stage of higher education, the purpose of English learning is not only to obtain relevant certificates but also to improve the comprehensive level of students' English, so as to lay a good foundation for future employment and self-improvement. In today's globalization background and employment environment, English is one of the important skills to improve students' comprehensive competitiveness. Therefore, teachers should change their teaching concepts and build a new English teaching mode in colleges and universities from the perspective of applied linguistics to ensure that English teaching can keep pace with the times and meet the diversified needs of students. In the actual English teaching process, teachers can build teaching situations for students from the perspective of linguistics, such as English speech in the classroom, English job-seeking, English dialogues, English negotiations, and other situations, and require students to simulate the above English situations to observe the speech, the tone of voice, attitude, and expression management in the English language, so that students can find their own deficiencies in English language learning in the above scenes, improve their language expression skills, truly reflect the effectiveness and practicality of English teaching, and lay a good foundation for future multi-scenario English application^[7].

3.2. Strengthening the cultivation of students' language proficiency

Teaching English from the perspective of applied linguistics can effectively change the traditional "mute" way

of learning English, so that students can continuously improve their English language and speaking skills in English learning, and realize learning English, speaking English to using English, and really make use of what they have learned ^[8]. The first step to improving English speaking skills is to speak English, and in English teaching practice, teachers should encourage students to read English aloud in the English classroom ^[9]. In the traditional teaching mode, most of the English learning is based on silent reading, which causes students to be timid when they read English aloud, and in the long run, students' English speaking skills gradually deteriorate. Therefore, teachers should guide students to read aloud or read boldly and loudly in the process of independent reading, so as to continuously improve their English speaking skills. In this process, teachers should encourage or correct students in time to increase students' confidence in reading aloud in English, so as to enable them to devote themselves to English learning with more self-confidence. In addition, teachers should also provide students with a platform for oral expression or language skills, so that students can actively display themselves and get more opportunities to improve their oral English level. In this regard, teachers can regularly organize speeches and drama performances with English as the main language, so that students can continuously improve their oral expression skills during the process of participating in the activities and can fluently carry out their oral expression or communication in the future study or work ^[10].

3.3. Optimizing the learning atmosphere by using information technology

In English teaching in colleges and universities, teachers should take the concept of applied linguistics as the center to carry out English teaching activities and create a good learning atmosphere for students. In English teaching in colleges and universities, due to the limited teaching resources, it is impossible to provide students with real English communication scenes, and learning is relatively boring and makes students easily become tired of learning. In today's information age, teachers can make use of information technology to make up for the lack of traditional teaching English resources. For example, teachers can use information technology to remotely connect foreign teachers and students to communicate at any time, so that students can feel real communication with foreigners and create a good English learning atmosphere. At the same time, teachers can also use information technology to enhance the richness and diversity of English classroom teaching and stimulate students' interest in learning, so that students are no longer resistant to learning English but can actively and positively engage in English learning ^[11]. For example, teachers guide students to use artificial intelligence (AI) software to build English conversation content, and students can use English to simulate conversations and communication with AI in real time, which not only increases the interest in English learning but also enables students to use AI to practice English conversations at any time and any place, enhancing the flexibility of English teaching. It should be noted that teachers should apply information technology appropriately and not rely on it too much to avoid affecting the development of normal teaching planning ^[12].

If students encounter phrases or grammatical problems in their English learning, teachers can also use information technology to visualize the application of English grammar or phrases. For example, teachers can use big data or AI technology to analyze the data of important and difficult knowledge and to generate a dialogue situation that matches with it, so that the students can better understand the application of grammar or phrases ^[13]. Teachers can also use information technology to assist students' English writing if they encounter problems in the process ^[14]. For example, when writing exercises on a certain topic, teachers can collect model essays on related topics through the Internet, use big data and AI technology to distill the difficult and important long sentences, phrases, grammar, etc., and construct teaching situations through other example sentences, so that the students can extract the application scenarios of a certain grammar or phrases from multiple example sentences, and apply them in English writing. Taking "Trying to Be Good University Student" as an example,

teachers can use the Internet and big data technology to collect model essays about the topic and extract the difficult and important knowledge through AI technology, and show them through example sentences, so that students can understand the usage of the difficult and important knowledge and the use of the scenarios and improve their writing skills^[15].

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, English learning is crucial in today's globalization background. Integrating the concept of applied linguistics into contemporary English teaching can effectively improve students' oral expression and English writing skills, promote the development of English teaching in the modernization of English teaching, and stimulate students' motivation. In the process of applying this concept, teachers can change the concept of teaching, strengthen the cultivation of language ability, and build a good learning atmosphere, aiming at cultivating students' comprehensive ability of English application, meeting the needs of students' diversification and improving students' practical use of English, and realizing the high-quality development of English teaching. The aims are to cultivate students' comprehensive ability to use English, to meet students' diversified development needs, to enhance students' English practical skills, and to realize the high-quality development of English teaching.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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