

# Research on English Language and Literature Teaching Strategies Based on Situational Teaching Method

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**Abstract:** The teaching of English language and literature not only focuses on developing students' English language proficiency but also emphasizes their understanding and cognition of the cultural connotations behind the English language. This dual focus aims to cultivate students' cross-cultural communication skills and practical English skills. The application of the situational teaching method can create corresponding learning scenarios based on English language knowledge, thereby enriching students' learning experiences and understanding within these scenarios. This method has significant advantages in enhancing the effectiveness of English language and literature teaching. Consequently, this paper first analyzes the significance of applying the situational teaching method in university-level English language and literature instruction. It then proposes several strategies for implementing this method, with the goal of enhancing students' language awareness, cultural literacy, and comprehensive English skills.

**Keywords:** Situational teaching method; College English; Language and literature; English teaching

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## 1. Introduction

In the context of global economic influence, not only are frequent trade exchanges conducted between countries, but cultural exchanges have also become a crucial activity in the new era. English, as a universal language, plays a vital role in promoting cultural exchanges and trade transactions, necessitating that college students possess strong English language application skills<sup>[1]</sup>. However, a disconnect between learning and practical use is evident in current university English teaching activities, particularly in students' lack of cross-cultural communication skills. Strengthening the teaching of English language and literature in universities can encourage students to actively study English, master Western culture and history, and develop cross-cultural communication skills<sup>[2]</sup>. This approach can significantly enhance students' comprehensive application of English, aligning with current talent cultivation goals in higher education institutions<sup>[3]</sup>.

## **2. Significance of applying the situational teaching method in teaching English language and literature in universities**

### **2.1. Enhancing students' language comprehension skills**

The foundation of learning English as a foreign language lies in students' understanding of the language<sup>[4]</sup>. Only by deepening their comprehension can students achieve flexible application of English. The situational teaching method in university English language and literature instruction can present the background and historical environment of the English language<sup>[5]</sup>. This allows students to experience the influence of different geographic environments and cultural contexts on the language, thereby understanding the literary background, historical connotations, and customs embedded in English. This approach is conducive to enhancing students' language comprehension skills<sup>[6]</sup>.

### **2.2. Improving students' language learning ability**

The situational teaching method can create an effective language environment tailored to students' learning abilities. Within these learning scenarios, students can engage in independent reading and learning, thereby grasping the cultural connotations behind the language<sup>[7]</sup>. Teachers can employ advanced teaching methods and diverse content to make English teaching more vivid and imaginative<sup>[8]</sup>. This not only stimulates students' interest in learning but also enhances their initiative and promotes independent learning. Through this process, students can master effective English learning methods, thereby improving their language learning abilities<sup>[9]</sup>.

### **2.3. Strengthening students' language application skills**

The situational teaching method can transform traditional college English teaching by enriching classroom activities and content, emphasizing students' central role<sup>[10]</sup>. In situational teaching activities, teachers create learning scenarios based on English language and literature works, vividly presenting language application models<sup>[11]</sup>. This helps students understand language expression techniques and emotional expressions in classic literary works. Engaging in diverse teaching activities allows students to internalize and imitate English language expression methods, thereby standardizing and improving their language application skills<sup>[12]</sup>.

## **3. English language and literature teaching strategies based on situational teaching methods**

### **3.1. Consolidating students' English foundation using literary works as cases**

English language and literature teaching activities deepen students' understanding of English as a foreign language, including its historical background and cultural connotations<sup>[13]</sup>. Literary works, rich in grammatical knowledge and rhetorical techniques, create specific language environments with diverse English expressions. Using literary works as teaching cases and scenarios helps students consolidate basic English knowledge and appreciate the application characteristics of grammatical knowledge in vivid contexts, thereby improving their comprehension skills. For instance, in classroom teaching, teachers can use classic scenes from *Hamlet* to immerse students in the plot, encouraging them to experience the characters' psychological feelings and analyze the structure of iconic sentences like "To be or not to be"<sup>[14]</sup>.

### **3.2. Creating cultural teaching scenarios using textbook content**

English teaching should be based on textbook content, and situational teaching methods should create

thematic scenarios to deepen students' understanding of the material. This approach assists in unit teaching activities, motivates students, and enhances classroom teaching effectiveness. For example, in studying American culture, teachers can create a scenario titled "American Culture—Your Journey to America," where students design their own travel guides based on textbook content and extracurricular knowledge. This activity encourages students to explore American culture, thereby enriching their cultural understanding and enhancing their intercultural communicative competence<sup>[15]</sup>.

### **3.3. Enriching network teaching resources and building language learning scenarios**

Utilizing network teaching resources can enrich teaching scenarios and create more dynamic learning environments. In English language and literature teaching, teachers should innovatively apply online resources to construct complex knowledge and language environments. For example, in a lesson on "conspicuous consumption," teachers can use clips from American reality TV shows to introduce the topic, creating a learning scenario that relates to students' experiences and the cultural context of the phrase "keeping up with the Joneses." This approach helps students understand the cultural connotations of the English language more easily.

### **3.4. Designing literary extensive reading scenarios to enhance students' language awareness**

Creating extensive reading scenarios based on rich literary works allows students to engage with the content naturally and understand characters and writing techniques. This method helps students appreciate the cultural content of English literature and learn pure English, deepening their cultural understanding and recognizing linguistic differences. For example, in teaching English ancient literature, teachers can use classic works like the *Bible* and *Greek Mythology* to design extensive reading activities. Comparing these with Chinese classic literature can help students understand cultural differences and improve their cultural literacy.

## **4. Conclusion**

In conclusion, strengthening the teaching of English language and literature in universities can help students understand Western literature, enhancing their comprehensive English language skills. By applying the situational teaching method, teachers can create vivid and realistic English language scenarios, promoting students' understanding of language application methods in different contexts. This approach consolidates students' language foundations, cultivates their language awareness, and fosters independent learning abilities within cultural scenarios, ultimately achieving the goals of English language and literature teaching.

## **Disclosure statement**

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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