

The Way to Infiltrate Ideological and Political Education in College English Teaching

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Abstract: College English, as an extremely important general course in the higher education system, is an effective carrier of ideological and political education. From the level of ideological and political education, strengthening the effective integration of college English teaching and ideological and political education plays a positive role in promoting the reform of curriculum teaching and personnel training. Therefore, this paper probes into the significance and feasibility of ideological and political education in college English teaching to provide a new idea for the close integration of college English teaching and ideological and political education, and pave the way for cultivating more high-quality talents.

Keywords: Colleges and universities; College English; Ideological and political education; Infiltration path

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1. Introduction

College students are not fully mature physically and mentally. Sometimes, they lack a good ability to distinguish right from wrong. Therefore, when facing the invasion of multi-culture, they will inevitably have unfirm thoughts, which may not only affect the overall quality of English learning, but also affect their development. Under the background of ideological and political curriculum, the importance and necessity of the integration of college English teaching and ideological and political education has become increasingly prominent, which provides a brand new idea for the study of this paper.

2. The significance of ideological and political education

2.1. Highlighting the humanistic and instrumental nature

For a long time, many experts and scholars in the field of education have not reached a consensus on whether college English is humanity-oriented or instrumental-oriented. However, it is undeniable that college English is characterized by both humanism and instrumentality. Traditional college English teaching lays more emphasis on the instrumentality of language, that is, teaching students to use English as a language tool to transmit and communicate information, and develop their basic skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing^[1]. The

research shows that integrating ideological and political education into the whole process of college English teaching is an effective measure to promote the organic combination of instrumentality and humanism in the college English curriculum. To be specific, the infiltration of ideological and political education into all aspects of college English teaching can fundamentally solve the problem of instrumentality in college English teaching today, by taking the cultivation of students' cultural literacy, and critical thinking and broadening their international horizons as the starting point and goal of teaching. It is helpful to further guide students to correctly understand the differences between Chinese and Western thought and culture, to gradually reflect the humanistic characteristics of college English teaching. In this way, more compound talents with both quality and ability can be cultivated.

2.2. Continue the educational tradition of attaching importance to moral education in China

Moral education has always been the top priority in all stages of education in the country. From the pre-Qin, Qin and Han dynasties to the Tang Dynasty and then to the Qing Dynasty, the connotation of moral education is increasingly rich, and the thought of moral education is also advancing with the era^[2]. Especially after entering the 21st century, with the thought of "cultivating morality and cultivating people" put forward and in-depth, the integration of moral education and intellectual education has been put on the agenda and pushed to a new class. Infiltration of ideological and political education into college English teaching can, on the one hand, convey positive socialist core values to students. On the other hand, it can enhance students' national pride and self-confidence, strengthen their national concept, and lay a foundation for their future growth and development. From this point of view, infiltrating ideological and political education into all aspects of college English teaching and boosting the reform of curriculum teaching is an effective way to actively implement the national education policy and ideology. At the same time, it is also an inevitable demand to help college English teaching change the ideological and political direction of the curriculum. It is the continuation of the fine tradition of moral education in China and a powerful measure to inherit and carry forward our country's high-quality education culture and ideology^[3].

2.3. Reflect the comprehensive educational value of college English

Because college English courses cater to most students in colleges and universities, they are not only wide in scope but also have a long period, which creates favorable conditions for the educational value of college English courses themselves. In particular, the integration of ideological and political education into the curriculum provides a broad platform for the implementation of ideological and political education, so that students have more opportunities to contact with diversified worldviews, life and moral values. On the other hand, this practice also invisibly increases the number of hours of ideological and political education and, to some extent, is conducive to easing the contradiction between the lack of class hours and a large number of theoretical teaching tasks, and more importantly, is conducive to significantly enhancing the effect of ideological and political education, bringing students a different English learning experience^[4].

3. The feasibility of infiltrating ideological and political education in college English teaching

3.1. Clear goals and adhere to the fundamental task of moral education

In the new era and new journey, the era and society have put forward new requirements for college English

teaching and pointed out the direction of progress. At present, although more teachers have realized the importance and necessity of integrating ideological and political education into college English teaching, the implementation effect is not satisfactory. Therefore, college English teachers should fully understand the nature of English courses, fully grasp the learning situation, and set clear goals. At the same time, they should match flexible teaching methods and diversified teaching and evaluation methods to explore effective ways for college English courses to achieve the fundamental task and goal of building morale and educating people. Only in this way can English teaching and ideological and political education be organically combined to help students develop in a comprehensive way^[5]. Specifically speaking, on the one hand, college English teachers should take the initiative to cultivate applied talents who have a solid grasp of English and can skillfully use English. On the other hand, they should pay special attention to integrating ideal and belief education, moral cultivation education, and personality quality education into the overall goal of the curriculum. This requires teachers to clarify not only the knowledge and ability goals and requirements of college English teaching, but also the ideological and political goals, such as cultivating college students' good professional ethics, promoting their multicultural communication, strengthening their language thinking, and improving their independent learning and exploration ability^[6]. To achieve the above goals, teachers need to flexibly optimize the teaching process according to the teaching goals, carefully design a variety of teaching activities, strive to run ideological and political education through the actual teaching process of each unit of college English, and promote the deep integration of cultural knowledge education, ideological and moral education and social practice education, to improve students' ideological and political literacy in a comprehensive way.

3.2. Strengthen special systematic training and exchanges for English teachers

To promote the deep integration of college English teaching and ideological and political education, teachers play an irreplaceable role. Usually, college English teachers have experience of studying, visiting or working abroad. Just because of this, they will inevitably come into contact with Western ideology^[7]. In order to strengthen their ideals and beliefs and make contributions to the English education of the motherland, college English teachers must constantly improve their ideological and political cultivation and strengthen their consciousness of ideological leadership. As the saying goes, "You need to be hard to strike iron." Therefore, college English teachers should have a thorough knowledge of the past, the present and both home and abroad. In particular, they should strive to improve their personal ability to spread Chinese wisdom, Chinese solutions and Chinese strength through English, a universal means of communication^[8]. To this end, colleges and universities should attach importance to and strengthen the special systematic training and exchange of English teachers. The specific methods are as follows:

(1) Organize teachers to actively participate in the special training of "curriculum ideology and politics" at the provincial and municipal levels, aiming at systematically improving teachers' theoretical level and practical skills through learning exchanges or expert guidance.

(2) Regularly organize and carry out college English "curriculum Thinking and Politics" demonstration course lecture competition, using this as a platform to select excellent teachers and send them to participate in national competitions at all levels. At the same time, carefully build college English "curriculum thinking and politics" demonstration course, using this platform, constantly encourage teachers to take the initiative to show the innovation results of classroom teaching, and fully mobilize teachers' active initiative in teaching.

(3) Encourage and organize English teaching and research departments (teaching and research departments) to hold regular exchange activities on teaching and research and teaching reform, so that college

teachers can sit together to discuss English teaching design enthusiastically, share teaching experience, and observe excellent “curriculum thinking and politics” micro-classes, to form a good academic atmosphere and a teaching and research culture of mutual help.

(4) Colleges and universities should actively establish a long-term and stable cooperation mechanism with Marxist colleges. Through the formation of teacher-apprentice pairs, two-way training and other forms, teachers can better integrate ideological and political education into college English teaching under the guidance of Marxist theory, to enable them to accumulate practical experience and improve their educational ability^[9].

3.3. Explore the ideological and political elements hidden in college English teaching materials

As an effective carrier of English knowledge, textbooks are an important reference and basis for English teachers to infiltrate ideological and political education in their daily teaching. College English classes should not only stop at the layer of words and grammar but should combine the characteristics of post-2000 college students to provide them with a variety of English learning resources and materials, imperceptible to them positive values, life values and worldviews, guide them into the depth of the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation to feel its charm. Only in this way can they develop a good sense of cultural identity and national pride^[10]. This requires teachers to dig deep into the ideological and political elements hidden in the textbook, from the background knowledge, and the main idea of the article to the assignment, every link cannot be ignored. Take FLTRP New Horizons College English Course (Ideological and Political Edition) as an example, to highlight the elements of Chinese culture, the latest textbooks have added several new topics and selected passages, that vividly show the achievements of China in economy, society, culture and science and technology in front of students and teachers from different levels and dimensions. It is worth mentioning that the textbook also has a separate reading section called “Stories of China,” which aims to focus on telling Chinese stories and create favorable conditions for cultivating students’ cultural confidence^[11].

Take “Unit 1 Fresh Start Text A: Toward A Brighter Future For All” as an example, the unit of this course focuses on topics related to “freshman enrollment.” The core theme of this course is “Exploring the meaning of college education and elders’ expectations and exhortations for children.” In the actual teaching process, teachers should not only guide students to clarify their learning goals and establish a correct learning outlook based on the central content of the text, but also actively extend the classroom, integrate the Chinese dream of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation into it, and effectively let students understand the positive role that the Chinese Dream plays in realizing personal and national development. In this way, students can effectively enhance their courage and self-confidence to consciously shoulder the burden of realizing the great Chinese dream^[12]. In addition, in the homework assignment, teachers can ask students to work in small groups and introduce the 24 solar terms in China or the lanterns on the Lantern Festival in the form of speeches, etc., using this as a starting point, they can integrate the excellent traditional Chinese culture into the teaching process, to further let students understand the profound connotation of the excellent traditional Chinese culture, encouraging them to make contributions to the inheritance and promotion of excellent traditional culture^[13].

3.4. Enrich the teaching process by combining in-class and out-of-class

(1) Keep the main position of classroom teaching

English classroom is the frontier of ideological and political education, which plays an important role in improving ideological and political education as well as English teaching. In the process of college English classroom teaching, teachers should be skilled in using project-based, heuristic, discussion-based, mixed, and other diversified teaching methods. At the same time, they should set an example. Only in this way can favorable conditions be created for the deep integration of ideological and political education and college English teaching, and English classrooms with feelings, vitality, temperature, and connotation can be built. Take the teaching of “A child’s clutter awaits an adult’s return” as an example, in the process of studying the text, teachers should guide the students to cut through the semantic and discourse analysis and discuss in a group “What is the most real idea in the mother’s heart when she sees the clutter left by her children? What is the emotion that drives the mother to patiently clean the room for the child?” and give their opinions in turn. In this process, teachers should listen carefully and give targeted guidance to students. At the same time, they should look for opportunities to integrate ideological and political education elements such as “respect” and “family affection” to guide students to grow up healthily ^[14].

(2) Cultivate the responsibility field of the second classroom well

The second classroom emphasizes the real or simulated social practice environment as the core, creating rich learning opportunities for students, so that they can develop the good habit of independent learning and active exploration, which is an effective extension and supplement of the first classroom. Teachers should devote themselves to opening up the second classroom which contains rich ideological and political education elements, effectively broaden the space of ideological and political education in the curriculum, and enhance the educational effect. For example, teachers should actively establish oral English corners or regularly organize English speech contests, movie viewing parties, keynote lectures and other activities, aiming to build a platform for students to communicate with each other and communicate their feelings, and strive to promote the close integration of what they learn in class with the actual social environment, to realize the dual improvement of ideological and political education and practical language application ability ^[15].

4. Conclusion

To sum up, the infiltration of ideological and political education into the process of college English teaching is of great significance to the play of the unique educational role of the English curriculum and the shaping of the ideological and moral character of college students. Therefore, college English teachers should exert importance to the in-depth exploration of ideological and political education elements, and at the same time, cooperate with flexible and diverse teaching strategies to enhance students’ cultural self-confidence. At the same time, they should carry out the fundamental task of “cultivating morality and cultivating people” and promote the coordinated development of intellectual education and moral education.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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