The Development of Students’ Multiculturalism in College Public English Teaching

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Abstract: With the development of economic globalization, the influence of culture on people is becoming more and more obvious. Diversified culture can bring diversified experience to students and broaden their horizons, which is of great help to the expansion of students' knowledge reserve and horizon. However, in the context of multi-culture, the emphasis on the cultivation of students' cross-cultural awareness is obviously insufficient in the process of college public English teaching, which leads to certain problems in the teaching process and affects the overall efficiency of college English teaching. Under the background of multi-culture, this paper analyzes in detail the outstanding problems existing in the process of cultivating students' intercultural consciousness in current college public English teaching, and puts forward to corresponding countermeasures.

1. Introduction

English is one of the most widely used languages in the world, so it has always been the focus of education. However, due to the problems in the traditional education mechanism and teaching philosophy, no matter in which stage of education, English teaching is more or less problematic, and college public English teaching is no exception. In the current college public English teaching practice, Teachers pay less attention to the cultivation of students' intercultural consciousness, that is largely affected the students to understand and grasp knowledge of English, especially under the current multicultural education background, the teaching form has apparently unable to meet the needs of the development of university education. Therefore, an in-depth analysis of the cultivation strategies of students’ intercultural awareness in college English teaching under the multicultural background is of great theoretical and practical significance in promoting the development of college education.

2. The Importance of Cultivating Students’ Intercultural Awareness in College Public English Teaching under the Multicultural Background

Different languages have different connotations in different cultural categories. Because of different cultural roots and ideologies, educators often misunderstand. People from different cultures have different learning methods (Edward, 1959:39) [1]. For Chinese learning, recitation is the most effective method, while in the West, free speech is regarded as the most effective way to use vocabulary and grammar.

2.1. Changing the Ideas of College English Education

For a long time, teaching ideas of teachers have been formed through long-term teaching practice. These teaching ideas are the crystallization of teaching experience and wisdom, and they must have certain rationality. However, with the continuous development of The Times, the educational form and the society's demand for talents have undergone fundamental changes (Kramsch, 1998:46) [2]. In particular, under the background of multi-culture, higher requirements have been put forward for the educational form. At the same time, the traditional educational concept is also undergoing a huge test. In order to better adapt to the development trend of The Times and improve the characteristics of The Times of education, teachers should actively change the traditional educational concepts and
constantly learn new educational methods, to meet the basic requirements of education development. In college English teaching, training students’ cross-cultural awareness has changed the traditional concept of education. Teachers enable to actively improve the teaching mode, and in the process of teaching, through cultivating students' cross-cultural awareness, pay more attention to students' actual situation, slam the door in the past the leading role in class, gradually transformed into participants and guide students to learn. This is of great significance to the development of college English education.

2.2. Stimulating Students’ Interest in English Learning
In the process of college English teaching, influenced by the traditional education mode, teachers generally adopt a relatively single teaching method in teaching practice. In the teaching process, there is a certain lack of interest, and students’ learning enthusiasm and initiative are not high. According to the theory of general education in the process of students learning, the cultivation of learning interest is very important, the direct relationship between the students’ enthusiasm for knowledge of the study and master degree, so in the teaching process, teachers should promote knowledge appropriate interest, stimulate students' learning enthusiasm to achieve good learning education effect (Dirkx, 2006:17) [3]. However, from the current practice of college public English teaching, teachers still have some problems in stimulating students' interest in learning. The teaching process is relatively boring and students' enthusiasm for learning is not high. In the process of teaching, cultivating students' cross-cultural awareness can expose students to diverse cultures and make them truly feel the interestingness of diverse cultures. By cultivating students' cross-cultural awareness, teachers can abandon the original boring teaching methods and use more vivid and vivid methods to teach students English knowledge, which greatly improves the overall quality of college public English teaching.

2.3. Improving College Students’ Practical English Ability
In the process of college English learning, both the test and the actual use of English, are all based on a full understanding of theoretical English knowledge. Under the guidance of traditional education idea, some teachers pay less attention to the students’ understanding of knowledge in the teaching process (Dai Lisheng, 2005:116) [4]. Moreover, using single teaching method and in the boring teaching environment, it is hard for students to improve understanding ability. Sometimes, teachers has already started a new knowledge while students has not fully understood, that is very bad for further learning of students in the future. In the process of college English teaching to cultivate students cross-cultural awareness, can make college students in the process of English learning have a certain guidance, leading to more effective learning new knowledge, and constantly deepen the understanding of theoretical knowledge (Le Cornu, 2004:27) [5]. It is very important to improve students' practical English application.

3. The Problems in Cultivating Students’ Intercultural Awareness in College English Teaching under the Multicultural Background
Misunderstanding, ethnocentrism, stereotype and prejudice can all cause cultural clashes. Changing the attitude towards different cultures and increasing understanding of different cultures can avoid cultural conflicts. To enhance our understanding of different cultures is not to lose our cultural identity, but to recognize cultural differences.

3.1. Paying Less Attention to the Cultivation of Students’ Intercultural Awareness
Under the current college English education system, students face with severe learning and promotion pressure, so compared with past, the current college English education has gradually deviated from the scheduled education track. To be specific, university is not only an important period for the formation of students' abilities in various aspects but also an important period for their development. Therefore, in educational practice, teachers should not only explain the basic public English knowledge to students, but also pay attention to the comprehensive ability of students, especially the cultivation of students' cross-cultural awareness. However, from the current practice of college public English teaching, it is obvious that teachers do not pay enough attention to the
cultivation of students' cross-cultural awareness. The reasons for this phenomenon are various. The main reason is that there is a big difference among public English, Chinese and mathematics, which is caused by the education system (Wolfe, 2006:113) [6]. That is to say, although the influence of multiculturalism on college public English is great, it is not obvious. Therefore, some teachers pay insufficient attention to the cultivation of students' intercultural consciousness, and public English teaching is even more difficult to meet students' actual learning needs, which leads to many problems in the process of cultivating students' intercultural consciousness.

3.2. The Cultivation of Students' Intercultural Consciousness is Superficial and has Less Substantive Effect

Under multicultural education background, during the college English teaching practice, training students' cross-cultural awareness is not achieved overnight, which need the teachers take scientific and reasonable teaching form after a relatively long time of training and understanding, and finally make the student develop a certain cross-cultural communicative competence and communicative awareness, thus achieve the desired training effect (Clifford, 2013:211) [7]. However, according to the current situation of college English teaching, most teachers' teaching methods are far from meeting such requirements. Although some teachers have realized the importance of cultivating students' cross-cultural awareness in the teaching, and adopted a certain methods in the teaching process, some teachers are still influenced by traditional teaching concept. They are lack of effective ways of teaching. The do teaching just for teaching. As a result, these teachers make the cultivation of the students’ cross-cultural consciousness a superficial form, and do not play a role in practical education, instead they affect the overall quality of college English teaching.

3.3. The Way to Cultivate Students' Intercultural Consciousness is Relatively Simple

College students are in the critical stage of ability formation. According to the characteristics of college students' English learning, the more interesting the knowledge is, the better the students will receive it and the better the teaching effect will be. When cultivating students' cross-cultural awareness in college English teaching, the same educational principle should be followed. However, from the current situation of college English teaching, teachers generally adopt a relatively traditional single teaching mode in the process of cultivating students' cross-cultural awareness, and teaching practice seems relatively boring. College English is a course, which has relatively tight contact with the actual life. Teacher can use the characteristics of English knowledge to strengthen the relationship between English knowledge with real life, and enhance the characteristics of diversified culture, in order to make students make better learning and understanding and help students to cultivate cross-cultural awareness. But unfortunately, many current college public English teachers did not pay attention to the improvement of teaching method in teaching practice, they still use a single boring teaching form, thus students' learning enthusiasm is not high, and the entire education class is relatively boring. In addition, some teachers pay less attention to the cultivation of students' intercultural consciousness, so the teaching effect is difficult to achieve the ideal goal.

4. Effective Countermeasures for Cultivating Students’ Intercultural Awareness in College English Teaching under Multicultural Background

As early as the 80s of last century, some scholars began to study cultural dynamics and their important influence on language teaching. Culture teaching should be a process of interpersonal communication, not a presentation of facts. Teachers should help students to understand other cultures. Because of the continuous development of social multiculturalism, learners should understand the role of culture in their work, such as age and sex.

4.1. Pay Attention to the Cultivation of Students' Intercultural Awareness in the Process of College Public English Teaching

Under the background of multicultural education, in the college public English teaching practice, the main reason of influencing on students' cross-cultural consciousness cultivation is the teachers’ traditional teaching way, which cannot fully mobilize students' learning initiative and enthusiasm. At
the same time, the teachers also do not pay enough attention to the improvement of teaching method and have been in a state of self-righteous. Therefore, in order to solve this problem fundamentally, teachers should actively establish their awareness of education reform, actively accept and apply all kinds of new teaching models to improve teaching effect, and achieve the overall improvement of teaching level. Teachers should abandon the negative impact of the traditional education concept, break the shackles of old teaching methods and ideas, stick to the correct discipline education guidance, and have fully understanding before the college public English teaching to cultivate students' cross-cultural awareness. Teachers should has a comprehensive system to capture the essential characteristics of cross-cultural awareness training, and then merge with college public English teaching effectively, optimize the teaching design putting the students' cross-cultural consciousness cultivation as the main goal of college English teaching, reduce the proportion of exam-oriented education, and finally achieve the aim of education college students' cross-cultural awareness. (Megan, 2016:46) [8]

4.2. To Improve the Teaching Ability of the Cultivation of Teachers' Intercultural Consciousness

During college English teaching practice, the cultivation of the students' cross-cultural consciousness belongs to a kind of new things. Thus, the training way also has a certain difference with the traditional way of teaching. Teachers in the process of the cultivation of the real, not rigid practices carried out in accordance with the original way, and should adopt the most effective way to improve students' cross-cultural awareness training. In order to achieve such a teaching purpose, it is necessary for teachers to have a deeper understanding of cross-cultural awareness and multi-culture before carrying out cross-cultural awareness training, which puts forward to meeting higher requirements for the teaching quality of teachers. In order to promote the improvement of teachers’ teaching level, colleges should actively take various measures to improve teachers' teaching ability. For example, the colleges can actively organize teachers to carry out learning and communication activities to build a platform for teachers to communicate and learn, so that teachers can gradually improve their ability to cultivate cross-cultural awareness through communication and exchange of problems in the teaching process, and promote the continuous improvement of students’ cross-cultural awareness.

4.3. Timely Examine the Results of Cross-cultural Awareness Training

Under the background of multi-culture, the cultivation of cross-cultural awareness is not novel in form or innovative in process, but can effectively improve students' English application ability, improve the quality of public English teaching, and help students better understand and master relevant knowledge. Therefore, when cultivating students’ intercultural awareness in college public English teaching under the multicultural background, a set of scientific and perfect teaching evaluation mechanism should be established to timely test the overall effect of intercultural awareness cultivation. The construction of teaching evaluation system should be scientific and reasonable to some extent. It can be combined with regular and irregular methods to test students’ English application ability and comprehensive quality, and reduce the proportion of test scores. Only in this way can the adverse effects of exam-oriented education mechanism be avoided fundamentally. At the same time, through the results test, we can timely find the problems in the process of cross-cultural awareness training, and then take effective countermeasures, which is also an effective way to improve the quality of cross-cultural awareness training.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, in the context of multicultural education, it has become the main trend of educational development to cultivate students' cross-cultural awareness in college English teaching. As a result, in college English teaching practice, teachers should pay fully attention to cultivating students’ cross-cultural awareness, constantly innovate and improve countermeasures of cultivating cross-cultural awareness. Furthermore, college should take cultivating cross-cultural awareness as
the main goal of college English education. It is important to improve teachers’ practical teaching ability, develop scientific teaching evaluation mechanism, timely solve the problems in the process of training, and promote the development of college English education better.

References