A Study on the Application of Flipped Classroom Teaching Mode in College English Teaching

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Abstract: With the advancement of the times, the application of English has become more and more extensive. The application of teaching methods by English teachers has also changed. Flipped classroom is one of the teaching methods, which makes the classroom teaching rights gradually transfer to the students, maximizes the students’ main body status, and makes the students focus more on the deeper knowledge content learning and reduce the burden of English teachers, as well as promoting the effectiveness and professional development of English teaching. This paper studies the application of flipped classroom in English classroom teaching, and hopes to provide some reference for teachers’ classroom teaching.

1. Introduction

At present, the development of network information technology promotes the technological progress of all walks of life. The education department also advocates the use of high-tech information technology in teaching. Flipped classroom is an autonomous learning process that students complete ahead of time, they can watch videos and read e-books, and then communicate with some excellent students in the webcast room. They can learn from other excellent teachers on the internet. Teachers only play a supporting role. The use of flipped classroom in English teaching is conducive to the specialization of students’ learning, the exercise of students’ autonomous learning ability, the development of students’ intelligence, and the improvement of students’ creativity. Therefore, it is a general trend to adopt flipped classroom teaching in college English teaching.

2. The concept and features of flipped classroom

Flipped classroom can also be called inverted classroom, which mainly refers to the transfer of students’ learning initiative from teachers to students, and the arrangement of their own learning time by students. By adjusting the time inside and outside the classroom, teachers can promote students’ self-exploration and cultivate students’ self-motivation\(^1\). After class, the students grasp the learning rhythm and content by themselves, find the information they need through the network, and combine the students, teachers and the network together. Flipped classroom has the characteristics of short and concise video, clear teaching information, re-creation of the learning process for students, and more convenient testing for students in review.

3. Advantages of using flipped classroom in English teaching

(1) Students control the pace of learning by themselves

Each student is an independent individual with his own unique learning style and learning rhythm. Teachers should not restrain the uniqueness of students, but give full play to the unique advantages of students and promote the learning of students’ English knowledge\(^2\). Flipped classroom for students can just make up for this shortcoming, let students play their own advantages, and reasonably arrange and control their learning time and style according to their English ability and basic level. Students can relax in the process of learning English, learn in a comfortable learning environment, watch teaching videos after class to check for leaks and fill vacancies, read fast forward and do not understand playback, summarize their knowledge points, and think for...
themselves.

(2) Promoting students to enhance communication

Students’ communication in learning is indispensable. The communication between teachers and students, students and students can effectively promote the feelings and have a good learning atmosphere. Flipped classroom makes the teacher’s role change from the presenter of teaching content to the instructor of students’ learning, which makes the teacher become a member of students, closes the distance between teachers and students, and enables teachers to further understand students and give targeted guidance to students\(^3\). Students can set up their own study groups to solve each other’s existing doubts. When the members of the group are unable to solve the problems left behind, they can consult the teachers and let the teachers solve them.

(3) Increasing free time for students to study

In traditional teaching, students have less time for self-learning, which is generally dominated by teachers. Teachers have assigned homework assignments, and students are free to allocate less time. Flipped classroom is to reduce the teacher’s teaching time, increase the students’ free learning time, let the students learn under the class, and improve the students’ deep knowledge mining without reducing the basic tasks of the students\(^4\). In order to improve students’ understanding and learning ability, teachers can effectively grasp the students’ learning under the class and objectively evaluate students' learning. During this period, teachers should allocate the teaching time reasonably, so that the classroom time is efficient and the teaching quality is maximized.

4. The Deficiencies of flipped classroom in English classroom teaching in colleges and universities

(1) Some students have weak foundation and poor English learning ability.

There are differences in learning ability among students. Learning English knowledge requires a systematic learning process, from the memory of English words, the learning of key phrases, the use of English grammar knowledge, reading comprehension and writing of English compositions. Only by laying a solid foundation can we be proficient in using English to communicate with others. However, in the application of the flipped classroom, due to the differences among students, some students can not fully understand, digest and absorb the knowledge they have learned when they study independently. Over time, these students lose interest and initiative in English learning, and their English level has not improved, resulting in the low quality of the teaching mode of the flipped classroom\(^5\).

(2) Teachers are not proficient in the use of flipped classes

When using the teaching mode of flipped classroom in English teaching, teachers need to have strong control and organize students to study independently. Teachers themselves should have a full understanding of the flipped classroom and skilled use of the flipped classroom. In the current college English teaching, some teachers do not know about the flipped classroom, but just follow the trend blindly. In English teaching, the use of flipped classroom only allows students to watch teaching videos. Teachers do not follow up students’ learning, nor participate in discussions and exchanges between students with poor classroom order. After the end of teaching, there is no evaluation machine for students’ learning effect. The system leads to the inefficiency of English teaching and the low enthusiasm of students\(^6\).

(3) Teachers’ multimedia application ability needs to be strengthened

In the era of information technology development, teachers should keep pace with the times and strengthen their ability to use information technology. The most important thing in the application of flipped classroom in English teaching is the need for teachers to make teaching courseware. Teachers need to use computer to make courseware before class, and then upload the multimedia courseware, so that students can learn for reference. This is a big challenge for some teachers who are not proficient in using multimedia. Therefore, teachers should strengthen their ability to make multimedia courseware\(^7\). At the same time, teachers should grasp the degree of difficulty in the production of courseware, because students are engaged in independent learning, students are more difficult to lose confidence in learning, the difficulty is too small, students’ learning ability can not
be improved. Furthermore, teachers should make reasonable teaching objectives, so that students can learn according to the teaching objectives, and not let students study aimlessly, so teachers should make overall arrangements.

(4) It’s impossible to estimate the effect of flipped classroom learning

In the past, teachers used the form of examinations to examine students’ learning effect. However, flipped classroom is to promote students' autonomous learning, improve students’ inquiry ability and attract students’ interest in learning. Through learning, teachers can better understand students, let students have a comprehensive evaluation of themselves, and cultivate students’ independent thinking mode and logical thinking ability. But as far as the current flipped classroom is concerned, teachers can’t evaluate the students’ learning effect uniformly, and students’ learning ability can’t be presented using data, which makes parents of students question this teaching mode. Therefore, for the use of flipped classroom teaching in college English teaching, it is necessary for schools to establish a sound evaluation system to promote the development of flipped classroom.

5. The strategy of using flipped classroom in college English classroom teaching

(1) Creating an interesting classroom teaching environment to improve students’ English foundation ability

Students have limited concentration of time in their studies. Teachers need to create interesting activities in teaching, attract students’ attention, improve students’ interest in learning English, and improve the basic level of students’ English before flipped classroom teaching for laying a solid foundation. For example, when students study “Turning off TV: A Quiet Hour”, they can first let the students listen to a good English song and enter the course with it. Teachers can play some pictures on the media, so that students can learn and understand basic words first. By asking questions, “Understand the whole text, get to know how our life will be without TV”. Let students learn the text by answering, “Do you often watch TV? Why or why not? What programs do you like best? Why?” After the students have clear the subject, let the students learn on their own, sum up the key words and grammar in the text, and finally the teacher and the students will communicate together.

(2) Strengthening teachers’ level of use of flipped classroom

Flipped classroom is a new teaching mode, which requires teachers to learn more and use it skillfully. When using it in English teaching, teachers should control students’ learning progress, follow up well and improve teaching efficiency. For example, when learning “Sailing Round The World,” teachers let students study independently. During the learning period, teachers should set learning goals for students, such as some important words, phrases, and sentences, learn the tenses in the text, then practice by themselves, and when students are communicating and discussing, teachers should pay attention to guidance, so that students can learn in the correct learning process, so as to avoid students talk to each other and disturb the classroom order.

(3) Improving teachers' ability to produce courseware and establish appropriate evaluation mechanism

Teachers need to strengthen their multimedia operation ability in their leisure time, and participate in some skill training courses. When making courseware, pay attention to the combination of courseware content and student reality, and listen more and learn more. For example, when learning “Is There Life on Earth”, teachers use some techniques when making courseware so that students don't feel bored when watching. At the same time, after the students learn, the teacher should make a good evaluation and evaluate the students’ learning effect, not only from the students’ achievements, but also from the students' self-learning effects, sorting out the notes, and overall evaluating the students' learning effects from systematic evaluation.

6. Conclusion:

The use of flipped classroom in colleges and universities is becoming more and more common, and the combination of information technology and flipped classrooms promotes changes in teaching modes. The use of flipped classroom in college English teaching can effectively stimulate students’
initiative in learning and promote the improvement of English teaching.

References:


