Analysis about English Audiovisual and Speaking Teaching of Students Majoring in Flight Technology Based on ICAO Standards

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Abstract. Nowadays, civil aviation cause is developing rapidly and aviators' English level is playing an increasingly prominent role in civil aviation work. Besides, English audiovisual and speaking teaching is a basic course that students majoring in Flight Technology must master. This thesis mainly analyzes current situations about English audiovisual and speaking teaching of students majoring in Flight Technology based on ICAO standards and proposes improvement strategies.

Introduction

Civil aviation English course that is established for the major Flight Technology aims at cultivating students' and teachers' comprehensive proficiency in applying English, especially English listening and speaking ability in order to make them apply English ability to their flight work sufficiently and carry out effective radiotelephony communication. At the same time, it directs at enhancing students' and teachers' independent learning ability and enabling them to work hard to improve their comprehensive cultural appreciation and learn professional English skills in order that they can satisfy requirements of civil aviation for their English level and demands of international communication.

Introduction to English audiovisual and speaking teaching of students majoring in Flight Technology

The major Flight Technology aims at cultivating senior talent for airline operation and driving of civil aviation and requires that students must master basic knowledge of the major, their English level should reach related requirements of ICAO, such as requirements of operation management and standards for license of airline transportation pilots, and they need participate in flight training. Nowadays, the society requires that pilots should adapt to requirements of international standards and accept related examinations regularly. Pilots can work on flight work of civil aviation only when they pass assessment. Nearly all aircrafts of domestic civil aviation are imported from foreign countries, and their flight standards, requirements and procedures are organized according to international standards so that implementation can be finished accordingly. Thus, students majoring Flight Technology must master English skillfully and pilots should work hard and apply this work language all their life.

English is quite important for pilots and domestic flight colleges pay much attention to its application teaching. In addition to basic English education, some colleges also establish other English courses like Radiotelephony Communication, Spoken English and Professional English Reading etc to enhance training for students in this major, attach importance to improvement in students' English comprehensive ability and take teaching measures for enhancement, which is helpful for students to lay a solid foundation for the flight work that they will take up in future.

ICAO strategies

English listening comprehension

Listening comprehension of English courses in Flight Technology are similar to single choice of students' English listening examination at other common colleges and universities, but its topics are related to professional knowledge about the civil aviation flight that students will take up in future

and its scope is wide, such as aircraft commanders' duties and settlement of special situations. Thus, students may read English Reading Course for Civil Aviation in advance and comprehend and master words that are usually used as well as should be good at finding problems existing in identification and pronunciation of these words. Otherwise, it will be difficult for them to understand listening content in short time and the large possibility that they can make correct judgment will not exist.

Answers to questions via short English passages

When colleges examine students, they usually ask them to listen to a radiotelephony conversation which lasts 120 seconds. Students must understand it within two minutes and write down its main points. Therefore, this content is quite difficult for many students. It is essential for students to have corresponding ability to comprehend and use and be able to organize language of the radiotelephony conversation. Thus, when students have difficulty in this part, they should work hard to find correct ways to take the examination. When they listen to the conversation for the first time, they should try their best to understand its content, for instance, what has happened? Then, they ought to write down its details when they listen to it for the second time. Students should not be too flurried in order to avoid a blind listening phenomenon. With respect to difficult parts, students should make them be corresponding to the method that is the most appropriate for themselves and work hard to find the best method to pass the examination. Secondly, students should start with radiotelephony communication and find out the real reason why they cannot answer questions, such as they are unfamiliar with words, they did not hear key important words, they were so nervous that their brain became blank and they failed to record key information in time. Students should find out which reason makes them fail to finish the examination and then complete location according to the reason. Next, they may take measures to solve the problem. If students react to numbers in radiotelephony communication slowly, they may practice their reaction capacity by lots of corresponding exercises.

Radiotelephony communication

Radiotelephony communication can be carried out by role play. In detail, students play the part of pilots who have radiotelephony communication with workers being engaged in air traffic control. In the process of role play, related information of students who act as pilots, for instance aircrafts' call signs, will be shown on screen. After starting radiotelephony communication, students should listen to 'voice over' or orders of workers being engaged in air traffic control carefully. Generally, radiotelephony communication involves 15-20 sentences, which requires that students should give answers according to related hints after each conversation. For radiotelephony communication, listening content will not be played again, i.e., it will be read once, so its testing difficulty is high. Especially, task difficulty in radiotelephony communication is gradually enlarged, pronunciation is not as clear as that before, noise interference is accompanied and content in the part special situations is also increased. Thus, the difficulty will be high undoubtedly if students want to pass the examination. Besides, colleges' requirements for students' emergency radiotelephony English become higher and higher. If students are not proficient in daily English, they should find recent OPI to memorize and recite it.

Speaking interview

Speaking interview refers to OPI, which requires that students should have conversations with OPI examiners. In this process, examiners will ask students questions according to pictures on computer screen and the conversation will be recorded after students give answers. Generally, the test will last the longest time, i.e., 15 minutes.

For students with weak English foundation, speaking interview is difficult. In the process in which students describe pictures, they need combine with professional knowledge to answer questions, which is one of the difficult points. Therefore, students may pay more attention to cases, for instance, air accidents of civil aviation, and draw some conclusions by themselves, such as picture classification and thoughts. They may write down drawn conclusions and then ask teachers or classmates with experience to help them check grammar mistakes in the conclusions in order that they can correct corresponding mistakes. Next, they may recite correct materials.

When the interview is carried out, difficulty in questions in high since they have involved related professional knowledge rather than life only. At present, difficulty in oral tests increases day by day, specialty is strengthened and requirements for English ability, such as comprehension, vocabulary and expression, grow continuously. Meanwhile, all flight colleges pay more and more attention to ICAO and even an increasing number of airline companies improve the standard to Level 4, which increases teaching difficulty largely. ICAO is closely related to both pilots' future career and transportation safety of civil aviation, so we should attach importance to it.

Problems existing in English audiovisual and speaking learning process of students majoring in Flight Technology

To master a language, students should learn how to use the language form and clearly understand use of its language form is feasible and appropriate under a certain occasion or not. Since students encounter many problems in the learning process, colleges should pay attention to this.

Vocabulary

Most students regard vocabulary as the largest problem in English audiovisual and speaking learning. Vocabulary accumulation has been key content of language study all the time. Although many students try to memorize words at the very beginning of their English study, vocabulary still becomes the largest obstacle in students' English learning process. Lots of people fail to understand why such a situation appears. However, the fundamental reasons for this involve the following aspects. First of all, it is not systematic enough when students memorize words so that they forget one word when they recite another one. As a result, much word retention that they have done makes a futile effort. Secondly, students cannot combine works with usage effectively, so they fail to comprehend words and their relative grammars when words are put together with fixed phrases or texts even if they remember their basic meanings. Additionally, when some students memorize words, they do not pay attention to comprehensions. Thus, they ignore pronunciation of some words easily, which makes students fail to identity such words accurately when they do listening tests.

Pronunciation

Functions of the pronunciation which acts as an important link of English audiovisual and speaking teaching are easily ignored. However, to learn a language well, it is essential to master its pronunciation system skillfully in order that good pronunciation quality and ability can be cultivated. Some students may think that speed of listening is too high, language sense is not good, accent is too obvious, they cannot write words although they sound familiar and word retention is not firm. All of these problems are closely related to pronunciation. Schools pay attention to students' examinations and exercise but do not attach much importance to pronunciation, which not only makes students' pronunciation foundation weak but also brings some difficulty to English audiovisual and speaking teaching.

Learning efficiency

A number of students show interest in English but do not work hard sufficiently. For students majoring in Flight Technology, importance of English is self-evident and many students also think it is the most important learning objective. However, they being to relax their English study. As a result, students' enthusiasm is reduced largely. Usually, the reason for this is that their learning efficiency is low, efficiency is common, randomness is high and systematicness and pertinence are lacked.

Strategies improving English audiovisual and speaking teaching of students majoring in Flight Technology

Realizing diversification of teaching content and methods

Some scholars think that cognitive development of individuals has three stages, i.e., assimilation, adaptation and balance. Then, to make students obtain balance in English learning process, it is essential to pass the two stages assimilation and adaptation. Consequently, English teachers at flight colleges may realize diversification of their teaching content and methods, which can not only make

students combine new knowledge with original knowledge structure effectively but also update teachers' original teaching experience. Since internet develops rapidly nowadays, audiovisual and speaking teaching should not rely on teaching materials only. Instead, multimedia teaching should be popularized to a larger extent to provide abundant teaching content for English audiovisual and speaking teaching and enhance students' learning interest and motivation.

Firstly, teachers may apply some teaching materials related to classroom content, such as video and audio, to audiovisual and speaking classroom in order to share them with students, help students consolidate classroom knowledge and deepen students' comprehension of classroom knowledge. The listening material chosen by teachers should be corresponding to the major Flight Technology, i.e., listening materials are related to flight of civil aviation and helpful for students to combine English with professional knowledge effectively.

Secondly, teachers may make full use of carious kinds of digital electronic equipment. Classroom may not be limited to classroom but extended outside classroom. After all, oral English practice and tasks that teachers can arrange for students are limited, so it is necessary for students to do practice by themselves consciously after class. Students may record their practice process and hand it to their teachers for correction. Students need not write homework by hands but submit it in the form of audio. This method is visual and can also make students develop a good habit that they will speak English frequently.

Furthermore, network advantages may be used to build good English learning environment. Teachers may guide students to visit related large comprehensive websites like CNN and BBC actively and read articles related to flight and civil aviation on such websites in order to enlarge students' scope of knowledge and improve students' quality as much as possible. At the same time, they may improve students' reading ability. To learn English well, students may watch some English movies or listen to some English songs, alternate work with rest, take active imitation, change it into their knowledge reserve, use English as much as possible and practice their thinking in English. At ordinary times, students may try their best to use English and apply it after learning it when they communication with their classmates, friends or teachers. In addition, students may write diary in English. Both recording after oral expression and written form are good ways which can improve students' English ability effectively.

Change in subjects ——teacher-centered mode in the past is changed into student-centered form

Traditional English teaching mode centers on teachers and students only need finish tasks, which results in ordinary teaching effect and makes students fail to gain achievements. English teachers should be a guide providing guidance for students rather than be a simple initiator or infusing person of classroom knowledge. In detail, teachers need let students be the center in classroom and make them explore and practice knowledge and themselves as well as enrich their experience in learning knowledge and solving problems. What teachers need do is to exert its dominant role in teaching fully in order to arouse students' learning interest, drive them to do analysis and inference and form good thinking activities.

In the flight process of civil aviation, students' English thinking ability must be strong if they want to have the ability to use English well. As international communication increases constantly, pilots' English spelling must accept good advices and listening and speaking must be accurate and flexible. Thus, students must finish the open homework assigned by their teachers regularly, look up materials by themselves, draw conclusions, carry out independent thinking and cultivate favorable critical thinking skills. Besides, teachers' topic selection should not only be novel but also approach life and arouse students' interest in order to promote cultivation of students' critical thinking skills and enable them to judge problems by themselves and have unique opinions.

Moreover, it is essential to encourage students to speak English as much as possible in order to cultivate students' listening and speaking ability. Generally, students majoring in Flight Technology have optimistic and outgoing character and strong enthusiasm and initiative. However, the phenomenon that they are not active in classroom still exists. Most students are unwilling to speak English actively. On the other hand, being affected by traditional teaching mode, students lack

enthusiasm. Thus, we should break constraint of traditional teaching mode. In another word, we will not center on teachers but make students realize that they are the center of classroom to arouse students' enthusiasm and interest.

Conclusion

English audiovisual and speaking teaching develops constantly and appears to be more important for pilots. Nowadays, civil aviation cause develops rapidly, internationalization trend accelerates increasingly and requirements for pilots' English listening and speaking ability are improved continuously. Meanwhile, pilots face with the pressure brought by ICAO English grade examination. Thus, students majoring Flight Technology must improve their English audiovisual and speaking ability based on ICAO to lay a foundation for civil aviation work that they will take up in future.

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