WeChat Application in College English Teaching

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Abstract—**As a new way of communication, WeChat has brought new opportunities to network foreign language teaching. On basis of WeChat's function, this paper explores the advantages and characteristics of the College English teaching, and discusses the design and applying models in College English teaching, then makes full use of WeChat to promote college English teaching and learning.**

Keywords—*WeChat; College English teaching; applying models*

I. INTRODUCTION

The widespread use of WeChat will give students a new learning platform. This learning mode based on College English Teaching provides new opportunities and challenges for college English teaching. Wechat application provides new opportunities and challenges for college English teaching. It enjoys information-sharing function, which facilitates teachers and students to obtain the latest information and breaks the time and space restriction of traditional English teaching. In this case, students' imitative, motivation and creation in English learning are better improved.

II. THE ADVANTAGE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF USING WECHAT IN COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING

WeChat platform can be used in listening, speaking, reading and writing in college English teaching. There are some obvious advantages in the comparison with traditional teaching method.

A. WeChat Teaching Platform Extends English Teaching out of Class and Promote Flexible Teaching in College

WeChat platform make students take notes when learning by mobile phones. Students exchange their learning experiences with each other by WeChat's group chat function. The new communication pattern, WeChat, break the limit of classes and hours in college English teaching. This pattern extends class to extracurricular activities. It makes teaching more flexible and well-directed by well managing students' time according to their situation. Students can communicate with each other by using WeChat's video, voice message and group chat. Teachers can practice and improve students' ability of writing and grammar by using WeChat platform publish interesting vides or pictures to motivate students to discuss on their own. Students' speaking and listening can also be improved by using video chat and voice message. It is possible to make teachers find common questions and give correct answers in students' English learning by reading their homework through WeChat. It makes college English teaching more well-directed and improves students' English ablity.

B. Student-centered Wechat Teaching Platform Motivate Students' Interaction and Improve Their Second Language Acquisition

WeChat platform, compared with traditional English classroom, has more advantages by presenting audio, video, and group chat. WeChat's rich materials let students be more interested in learning English, for example non face-to-face communication help students overcome the difficulties and even fear in communication; the WeChat writing platform can combine listening, speaking, reading and writing in English teaching organically, and effectively improve the students' English level. The diversity of WeChat presentation is easier to enhance the attractiveness of English teaching and learning, also the timeliness and convenience of the presentation can better inspire students' enthusiasm and initiative. More importantly, WeChat platform reflects the different teaching modes, demonstrates rich teaching functions, promote students' consolidation of classroom knowledge, and combine autonomous learning and collaborative learning. Teachers apply WeChat platform to fully exert students' learning interest, and students become the center in the teaching activities, which can promote students' autonomous learning and collaborative learning ability. At the same time, WeChat platform provides real communication environment for College English teaching, especially in listening and speaking teaching, in that case even introverted students are willing to participate in teaching activities. WeChat can give fully exert their enthusiasm, initiative and creativity.

III. THE DESIGN AND APPLICATION PATTERN IN COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING BASED ON WECHAT

Language input and output is an important theory in the research of second language acquisition. Krashen's language input theory has received special attention form second language acquisition researchers. Krashen points out that second language learners need to receive adequate language inputs and meet the requirement of "i+1", then language acquisition can be achieved. The application of the new online platform of WeChat in college English teaching has expanded the time and space of college English teaching,

which is an effective complement of College English teaching. WeChat has the following application modes in college English teaching.

A. Combination Mode of Language Input and Output

WeChat support such social functions as text, pictures, video, voice, so on and so forth, which has qualities of timely update, quick response, free charge, cross-platform, mobile messaging and others to allow teachers and students to use it skillfully. Teachers release a difficult grammar point or lately social topic (video or the current hot spots that the students are interested in) through the WeChat platform, then let students discuss it in English. In this way, resonances and interactions among students are better aroused, which practices the students' listening and speaking ability spontaneously. At the same time, teachers participate in the guidance, supervision and discussion in students' learning process by WeChat platform, which can deepen the learning content, make students better grasp key and difficult language points, and lead them master new vocabulary through social topics; what's more, their reading and writing ability are highly improved through more practice that WeChat platform provides.

The application of WeChat network platform in college English teaching is a combination mode of language input and output, which provides true language environment to make input is in line with the requirement of "i+1" and output are constantly made in students' discussion.

B. Interactive and Students-centered Learning Mode

Listening, speaking, reading and writing are four basic skills in college English teaching. Interactive learning has been widely considered to be a bottleneck. WeChat is an online teaching platform. Teachers can publish some students' good composition or model essay to make students find useful sentences. Students can learn grammar rules quietly by browsing model essay. Teachers can also find and modify grammar errors in students' composition so as to reduce the possibility of making same mistakes in their composition and oral speech. It constructs an interactive teaching scene and enhances students' confidence of writing, speaking and grammar. Students strengthen their grammar by using WeChat to activate their way of thinking in listening, speaking, reading and writing. It is easy to achieve the goal of building and improving the interactive and students-centered learning patterns by using WeChat's environment.

C. Students' Emotional Supply Teaching Mode

The lack of emotional exchange exists in college English teaching. This is bad for emotional cultivation of college students. Emotional education must be emphasized in every stage and every course should be responsible for developing students' emotion. There is no exception to college English teaching. WeChat provides a platform to communicate for teachers and students. Using WeChat, teachers provide help in time by knowing students' study and thinking condition. It can also compensate the lack of emotional exchange in traditional English teaching and enhance relations between teachers and students. Applying WeChat to practice listening, speaking, reading and writing, not only studying interest but also studying efficiency are improved; even the problem of emotional lack in communication is solved. Then listening, speaking, reading and writing are naturally improved on condition of the settlement of self-study.

IV. DOS AND DON'TS OF WECHAT APPLICATION IN COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING

A. Based on Classroom Teaching, Supplemented by WeChat

The introduction WeChat platform for College English classroom teaching brings new advantages to the network of foreign language education. It is a new form of College English Teaching under the environment of network education by applying WeChat to set up an independent and interactive learning platform for students.

However, WeChat can not replace the traditional classroom teaching. College English teaching must be based on classroom teaching, and prevent it deviating from the theme, only leaving a formality. What's more, teachers should timely constraint, supervise and regulate students' behaviors in the use of WeChat.

B. Evaluations in the Application of WeChat's Behaviors

A learning community by applying WeChat platform is built to expand college English teaching in time and space, and this community is student-centered, which can effectively exert students' subjectivity, but evaluations in the application of WeChat's behaviors are needed to take (such as comprehensive evaluation of students' learning behavior, learning process, learning results in applying WeChat platform). In that case, it is more feasible to construct learning community with common aspirations, to cultivate students' learning quality of sharing, trust and a sense of belonging, and to help students adapt to changes of teaching methods brought by network education. All the above effectively guarantee the application of WeChat platform in college English teaching.

V. CONCLUSION

The rapid development of instant communication brings a new broad prospect for the network of foreign language teaching. WeChat, a modern communication exchange platform, is regarded as an English learning tool to stimulate the flexible English teaching, to facilitate the formation of subjective and collaborative learning atmosphere of English learning. At the same time, the advantages of the new network communication platform of WeChat have brought new challenges to the English teachers. How to use modern network technology has become a required course for them.

Therefore, as a college English teacher, we should not only always pay attention to professional knowledge and teaching skills to enhance the teaching quality, but also learn and master the modern teaching technology, and be adapt to the changes brought by the network education teaching methods, in order to make full use of advantages of

information tools and promote the healthy development of College English teaching.

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