

# Vocational English Teaching Reform From The Perspective Of Ideological And Political Education

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**Keywords:** Ideological And Political Education; Vocational English; Teaching Reform

**Abstract:** Ideological and political education should be carried out in a systematic, holistic and coordinative manner, to cultivate students with all-around development. In this paper, implementation surroundings are analyzed in terms of cultural globalization, vocational English teaching status and student status analysis, and then corresponding measures are to be taken in the vocational English teaching reform process.

## 1. Introduction

At the National Education Conference, our Chairman Xi Jinping pointed out that we should cultivate builders and socialism successors who carry out comprehensive moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor development. At the National Ideological and Political Work of Colleges and Universities, our Chairman, realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, provided scientific answer to such problems as cultivating what kind of people, how to cultivate people, and cultivating people for whom, which laid out the direction for higher education development.

In higher vocational colleges, we have professional courses, Liberal Arts Education courses, and Ideological and Political courses. There is a common phenomenon that professional courses and Liberal Arts Education ignore or fail to realize the value and function of ideological and political education, which leads to the lack of ideological and political focus in course teaching, makes Ideological and Political course isolated in morality education, and makes it difficult to form an effective even collaborative mechanism in creating strong educational atmosphere. Ideological and political education should be carried out in a systematic, holistic and coordinative manner, ensuring the unity of curriculum rational value, instrumental value, and the integration of science education and humanistic education.

## 2. Development Process of Ideological and Political Education

In 2014, under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, Shanghai issued *Special plan of Shanghai Curriculum Ideological-and-Political Education System Construction*, carried out the pilot work and implemented the education practice of ideological and political education under the support of professional courses and Liberal Arts Education courses, or integrate ideological and political education into professional courses and Liberal Arts Education courses, which marks a new development in educational thought and theory of our higher education. Since then, there is a teaching reform boom of ideological and political education in all colleges and universities across the country. Whereas, vocational colleges have taken on action slowly as well as shown less expected interest, even some colleges are still in the process of making curriculum construction plans.

CNKI, also known as China National Knowledge Infrastructure, is an information construction project aiming at realizing the dissemination, sharing and value-added utilization of knowledge resources in the whole society, initiated by Tsinghua University and Tsinghua Tongfang. The writer has conducted on CNKI a search of titles containing *ideological and political education* and

keywords of *vocational*, and the time was limited to July 10, 2020. The number of relevant papers obtained was 3,672, among which 342 were ideological and political education related to vocational English teaching. Considering the research content, the existing academic research results on ideological and political education can be divided into three parts. Firstly, the academic papers studied the implication, necessity and feasibility of ideological and political education from theoretical perspective, after a further and detailed study of our chairman Mr. Xi Jinping's speeches. Secondly, they put forward the talent cultivation mode, systematic schemes, the staff construction, teaching strategies and evaluation mechanism carried out by colleges, departments and teachers from a macro perspective. Thirdly, they explored deeply the ideological and political elements with reference to specific course features, as well as the empirical study summarizing integration of ideological and political education into concrete course, such as cross-cultural competence cultivation, critical-thinking ability cultivation, cultural confidence and teaching content design.

### **3. Implementation Surroundings of Ideological and Political Education**

#### **3.1. Cultural Globalization**

With the development of economic globalization, the term of cultural globalization often appears in various media. It refers to the flow of all cultures in the world under the simultaneous effect of integration and differences. The development of internet communication technology makes people's mutual communication easier, and therein the communication between cultures also comes. In order to maximize the economic interest, each country is striving to spread their own culture for wider recognition, as the wider recognition of culture will bring in more benefits in economy.

Although the development of cultural globalization has promoted the communication and integration of different national cultures, the communication effect of national culture is largely determined by the economic status. Developed countries have played a major even dominant role in economic globalization, which has changed the situation of two-way interaction of cultural exchanges into a unidirectional situation of cultural globalization. Each culture has its strength, but it also has its shortcomings inevitably, we should treat culture in a critical way instead of accepting it completely. For years, the aim of our learning English has been mastering grammar, vocabulary and reading, though the teaching reform has shifted attention to listening and speaking skills, our English proficiency can only enable us to participate in cross-cultural communication but can't help us with the active spreading of national culture.

#### **3.2. Vocational English Teaching Status**

Traditional vocational English teaching pays too much attention to the teaching of western cultural knowledge and values, so as to realize *knowing others* in the mutual cross-cultural communication. At the same time, vocational English teaching fails to guide students to *know ourselves*, learning more about our core socialist values and its strength as well as the long-history traditional culture. Even if vocational English teaching education advocates ideological and political education, it only adds a few education elements in the teaching resources, failing to bring in the systematic and scientific integration. There is a lack of comparison and contrast between Chinese and foreign culture in the teaching procedure, which is not conducive to the formation of students' critical-thinking ability. It also can't help students spread traditional culture in international communication, can't help our country play an increasingly important role in international affairs or increase the comprehensive national strength.

Vocational English course still pays too much attention to the teaching of such basic language knowledge as vocabulary and grammar, ignoring the enterprise needs which fails to focus on the cultivation of students' workplace competence. The integration of enterprises with vocational schools, i.e. school-enterprise cooperative talent cultivation mode is the main training mode in higher vocational colleges. There are some problems in English courses of vocational colleges, such as unclear teaching objectives, no vocational problems consideration, and lack of realizing language value in labor market [1], the original and rigid teaching mode is still used, which ignores the needs

of specialty and job positions. The assessment system is relatively backward, which focused on the mastery of basic knowledge structure while ignoring the practical operation ability of education recipients.

### **3.3. Student Status Analysis**

At present, the college students, most of whose parents were born in the 1970s, were born during the implementation period of the birth-control policy, coming from one-child families. They are experiencing the typical *421 family style*, namely four elderly people, one couple and one child. As the only child of their family, college students are even somewhat spoiled since childhood. College students are provided with good living conditions, are planned to own the all-round development due to good educational concepts, and are relatively more creative and open in thought. They turn to the great convenience of mobile internet to obtain information, rely more on smart phones, to participate in online games or online communication, so they also have innovative ideas and distinct personalities while they are lacking in the discrimination ability about information.

As higher vocational education becomes popular and the student background becomes diverse, many students can enroll in vocational colleges instead of taking annual National Entrance Examination. Without the experience of the National Entrance Examination (GAOKAO), students' knowledge proficiency, overall cultural horizon and learning competence have weakened. The college students generally are short of interest in learning, especially foreign language - English learning, lacking motivation and plan for learning, but they also don't fear the negative consequences brought about by not-learning. They still adopt the rigid learning strategies and methods to learn English, believing that learning English is nothing more than memorizing a few words and doing a few multiple-choice exams, this is particularly unwise when English is used as the medium for subject instruction [2].

## **4. Ideological and Political Education Strategies**

### **4.1. Cultivating Discrimination Ability in Cultural Globalization**

Language is the carrier of culture and thought; people with different cultural backgrounds exchange their ideas by means of language expressions such as words, sentence and discourse. As a culture of pedagogical uncertainty and lack of professional support is highlighted [3], vocational English teaching reform should help student's gain comprehensive understanding of the politics, economy, culture, social culture and value outlook of foreign countries, by cultivating not only their language knowledge and skills but also intercultural competence [4].

Vocational English education should involve cross-cultural competence cultivation as a learning objective, focus on spreading our traditional culture. In vocational English class, teachers not only impart foreign language including foreign culture, but teachers should also cultivate students to treat cultural difference objectively, to identify and discriminate foreign culture. We should make college students prepared for telling Chinese story, so they will have cultural self-confidence. In the process of cultural globalization, communicators should respect each other, tolerate cultural differences and take on responsibility, which can ensure a successful cross-cultural communication.

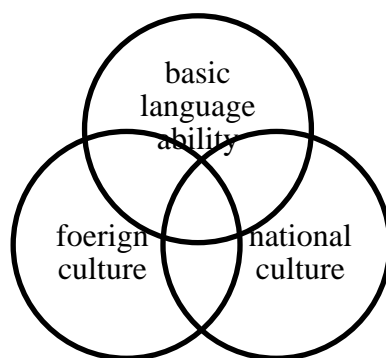
With the continuous improvement of China's comprehensive national strength and its increasingly important role in international affairs, it is more necessary for us to reserve Chinese cultural knowledge, enhance our sense of identity with our own national culture, carry forward and spread Chinese traditional culture, and take the initiative in cross-cultural communication. Only by looking at critically foreign culture and being confident in local culture, can we change the status where young people have weak cultural awareness, which helps promote the spreading of Chinese culture in cross-cultural communication.

### **4.2. Vocational English Teaching Reform**

Under the perspective of enterprise-college cooperative talent cultivation, vocational English teaching should carry out reform to change the phenomenon that English teaching is "far away"

from students' major and future career. Enterprise-college cooperative education as well as students' reflection on previous work experiences plays an important role in student's vocational self-concept at graduation [5]. English teaching design should simulate the working environment of enterprises in such ways as cases, mini projects, teamwork and presentation. To reach *zero mile distance* to the requirements of enterprise positions in language skills, the teaching reform will abandon the traditional teaching habit of emphasizing vocabulary and grammar, and adopt the strategy of cultivating students' language application skills to improve their communicative competence. While helping students cultivate good language skills, teaching reform will focus on professional ethics and professional quality, e.g. dedication, independent learning, innovation, teamwork ability, employment and entrepreneurship ability, time management, anti-pressure ability, communication and coordination ability. All courses should comprehensively cultivate college students' explicit and implicit professional quality, which includes good professional ethics, positive occupational attitude and correct occupational value consciousness. Vocational English course is not an exception.

Since language education is viewed as essential to the well-beings of people in a country [6], vocational English, as one of the major Liberal Arts Education with extensive audience in vocational colleges, should guide young people to learn foreign culture critically and cultivate their confidence in Chinese traditional culture. Vocational English teaching is not only the learning of basic language ability, not only getting in touch with foreign culture, values and ideology, but also spreading traditional culture in international communication, as is shown in Figure 1. Teachers should revise the curriculum teaching standard, involving the implicit goal of moral education as a learning objective, and realize the three-dimensional teaching goal of knowledge, skill and quality. As the external factors of top-down imperatives and high-stake exams may cause the cognition-practice incongruence [7], teachers should focus on students learning interests, learning motivations, and their cognition status during the whole learning process. Before class, teachers should revise teaching design, reintegrate teaching resources, match professional qualities of enterprises, and embed the excellent resources of Chinese traditional culture, with the objective of increasing cross-cultural communication competence and professional adaptability competence.

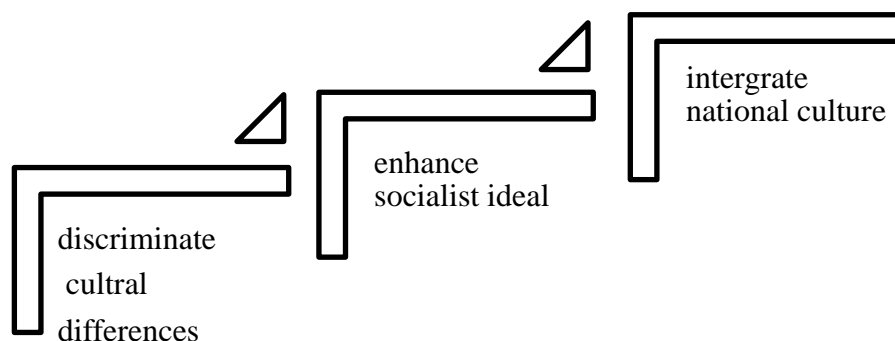


**Figure 1.** Vocational English Teaching Mode

#### **4.3. Cultivating Students' Mutual Culture Sense**

English is an important medium for college students to know and understand the world, and Vocational English teaching reform will consider such factors as learners' needs, teaching content and materials, teacher's role and the context [8]. First of all, we should guide students to use Marxism to analyze and judge cultural and ideological differences, cultivating their critical-thinking ability. Secondly, college English teaching should guide students to strengthen their socialist ideal, belief and cultural confidence. Teachers should explore the ideological and political elements in the course, such as patriotism, honesty, trustworthiness, and historical responsibility; under this circumstance students' contributions in the language classroom may be tactfully and efficiently handled [9]. In this way, students will cultivate their core socialist values, improve their cultural identity and cultural confidence, finally they can spread Chinese culture and traditional values in cross-cultural communication. Thirdly, students' interest in learning should be noticed through the integration of vivid and new cases into Chinese traditional culture. Students are invited to

participate in the Chinese Festival Theme, which is familiar to all. Fourthly, the students are also presented with domestic and foreign situations, so they strengthen their adherence to socialist values. In the COVID-19 incident, the selfless medical workers who stuck to their posts, the Chinese people who offered support from all walks, and all the Chinese people who responded to the government's requirement about *Fighting COVID-19 At Home*, paid New Year's greetings online and had gathering together online in such an important festival, which demonstrated the advantages of the socialist system and helped us get temporary victory in the short period.



**Figure 2.** Mutual Culture Sense Cultivation

Young college students should learn the development trend of globalization through forecasting world vision, be guided to realize that China is a country with great influence in East Asia, so they can form correct world, life and value outlook through critical identification of cultural difference and ideological difference.

## 5. Conclusion

Vocational English teaching reform will engage learners in cycles of modelling, guidance and independent language use [10]; will uphold resolutely the guiding role of Marxism, strengthen the education in core socialist values, explore the ideological and political education resources as well as professional quality resources contained in the curriculum, so that it can cultivate students to have their own ideal and belief, moral quality, social responsibility, value orientation and patriotism. Moral education will be integrated into all education aspects, ensuring ideological and political education are participated by all people involved in the whole teaching process.

## Acknowledgements

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