Discussion of Integrating Political Thoughts into Curricula More Effectively in College English Teaching

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Abstract: At the end of 2016, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed that "all kinds of courses and ideological and political theory courses should be in the same direction to form a synergistic effect". The spirit of his speech has been positively responded by the education community. In this article we will talk about some problems about ideological and political education in College English teaching, and try to figure out the ways to solve them more effectively.

Introduction

In 2015, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued the opinions on Further Strengthening and improving the propaganda and ideological work in Colleges and Universities under the new situation, which clearly pointed out that “the leading role of curricular teaching in Ideological and political education of college students should be given full play, providing a policy basis for ideological and political education of courses”.

In 2016, at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities, General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that to “make good use of the main channel of curricular teaching, all kinds of courses should be in the same direction with ideological and political theory courses to form a synergistic effect”. As the hope of the future development of the motherland, the party and state leaders attach great importance to the comprehensive development of college students. For this reason, colleges and universities have introduced the concept of "Ideological and Political Courses" to reform teaching.

1. The concept and guidance of Ideological and Political Education

The fundamental goal of education is to educate people. In the final analysis, it is to cultivate what kind of people. According to the provisions of China’s education law, the purpose of China’s education at this stage is to “cultivate students’ innovative spirit and practical ability, and train builders and successors of the socialist cause who have developed in an all-round way in morality, intelligence, body and beauty with ideals, morality, culture and discipline". It is not hard to see that in many aspects of talent training objectives, moral training is listed as the first place, which shows its important position. From this point of view, the primary and fundamental purpose of education is not to impart knowledge and skills or cultivate ability, but to establish students’ morality, shape their soul and guide their values, so as to cultivate and shape a sound personality and promote the harmonious and all-round development of personality.

"Curriculum ideological and political education" is a new educational concept in today’s era. It was first put forward in the special lecture of the 14th (2016) Social Science Annual Conference. Now, colleges and universities around the world have started the teaching reform of "Ideological and Political Courses". The curriculum carries the ideology and politics, and the ideology is in the curriculum." Curriculum ideological and political education" takes "cultivating morality and cultivating people" as the fundamental task of education, and organically combines professional courses with ideological and political courses, so as to build a full-scale, full-time, full-scale and all-round education pattern. The foundation of the construction of "Ideological and political
education of curriculum" lies in "Curriculum", and the key lies in "Ideological and political education". Therefore, in the process of the construction of "Ideological and Political Courses", on the one hand, we should attach importance to the core position of traditional ideological and political courses in the ideological and political education of colleges and universities, on the other hand, we should fully tap the ideological and political education elements contained in various courses, so that the combination of many aspects can promote the expansion of curriculum teaching from a single professional knowledge education to the multi-faceted cultivation of knowledge literacy and moral literacy to promote the unity of subject knowledge and humanistic quality.

Under the complex background of social multiple values interweaving and infiltrating, the dispute between the socialist core values and the so-called "universal values" in the west is particularly fierce. The limitation of relying solely or excessively on the ideological and political theory course to guide the values of college students is becoming increasingly prominent. The school is an important base for the country to cultivate talents and virtue. All classes have the function of educating people. We should fully tap the ideological and political resources in professional courses, doing a good job in the cultivation of knowledge and ability in shaping the ideological guidance and values of college students, and transform the cultural genes and value paradigms in the courses into teaching carriers to promote the socialism core values.

2. The current situation and problems of Ideological and political education in the process of College English Teaching

The teaching of English involves the dissemination and learning of Western political system, values, cultural traditions, social life, customs, religious beliefs and other aspects of knowledge. Through the carrier of language, it can permeate into students’ minds, or play a positive role, or bring a negative impact on college students with strong moral plasticity, or cause a huge impact on their values and moral standards. In order to understand the problems and reasons of Ideological and political education in College English teaching, based on reading a large number of literatures, the author carefully compiled the "questionnaire on the current situation of Ideological and political education in College English Teaching", and conducted a sampling survey in Beijing Polytechnic, whose object is the full-time students. A total of 400 students are randomly selected.

Most of the students think that the ideological and political education in the course not only studies the professional knowledge, but also has a leading effect on the cultivation of the students’ personal quality. Because nearly 70% of the students think that the curriculum teaching not only imparts the professional knowledge, but also integrates the personal quality education. A few of the students think that they have increased the relevant contents of the Party, the State or the personal career planning, accounting for 58.68% of the students think that the integration of Ideological and political education into professional courses can help promote personal success, while as high as 77.84% of students think that this kind of education mode can help them to distinguish right from wrong and choose employment more clearly. Secondly, 35.93% and 43.11% of the students believed that they could learn to get along with others, adapt to collective life and enhance their cultural confidence in their own country. The topics that students pay more attention to in classes are social life, major related content, national culture and current political topics in order of the degree of attention. 76.05% of the students are most interested in social life topics. But the social topics with the highest attention are also the ones that are most likely to affect the direction of students’ values. Nearly half of the students think that their patriotic feelings are most vulnerable to the guidance of public opinion, followed by the subtle influence of family, while the impact of textbook knowledge education only accounts for 14.97%. As a result, 66.67% of the students think that it is necessary to increase the hot spots of current affairs, 57.33% of the students think that it is necessary to increase the comparison between China and the west, and only 26.67% of the students think that it is necessary to increase the knowledge of textbooks. There are a few teachers who cannot meet the needs of students because of the limitation of curriculum content and class arrangement.

Despite the students’ increasing demands on acknowledging the national policies, the core values in China and other political affairs, we still have problems in ideological and political education. At
present, we are in the information age of rapid development, and the teaching tools of College English classes also change. However, many teachers' old teaching ideas limit the development of English teaching. Some college English teachers attach great importance to the indoctrination of language knowledge when they teach college English courses. They only regard teaching as a task, pay attention to students' achievements, and often neglect the essence of teaching and educating people. These teachers are lack of correct ideological and political concepts in their minds, and can not guide students with correct values. The old teaching ideas are deeply rooted and hard to be easily eliminated, which seriously affects the in-depth implementation of the education concept of "Building Morality and cultivating people". Therefore, it is the primary task of English Teaching Reform under the background of "Ideological and Political Curriculum" to eliminate the old teaching ideas of teachers.

Under the guidance of socialist core values, no matter which college or university should pay attention to ideological and political education, infiltrate the ideological and political concept into the professional teaching of various subjects. However, the current college English class often only focuses on the teaching of professional knowledge, and lacks the integration of Ideological and political ideas. In most college English teaching practice, the whole class is filled with basic theories such as grammar vocabulary, text general idea and so on. Teachers impart knowledge blindly, but they don’t know how to combine ideological and political ideas to carry out teaching. Curricular learning is too monotonous. In College English class, we should not only impart language knowledge, but also spread correct world outlook, values and outlook on life. The simple English education can’t meet the requirements of the times. Even if the teachers teach the professional knowledge very concretely, they can’t make the college students accept the moral education actively in the process of learning the professional knowledge, and can’t achieve the purpose of enhancing the socialist core value recognition when the college students study the professional knowledge.

In the new era, as the future hope of the motherland, college students should learn to think about values. But today's college students rarely do it. Many college students attach great importance to English learning, eager to make progress and hope to make progress in professional knowledge learning, so they pay too much attention to English knowledge learning in the classroom. They can’t be connected with daily life in this monotonous and boring learning. They only know how to absorb, don’t know how to connect with values while learning, and lack of thinking. "Ideological and political education in curriculum" requires the combination of Ideological and political education and professional education to educate college students. However, if college students do not know how to think about Ideological and political issues in combination with professional knowledge, the implementation effect of "Ideological and political education in curriculum" will be greatly reduced. When college students are learning English, they ignore the ideological and political thoughts, so they can’t become the talents with comprehensive quality needed by the social development of our country.

3. The reform path of integrating the concept of "Integrating political thoughts into curricula" into College English Teaching

As the engineer of human soul, teachers shoulder the mission of teaching. The task of teachers is "preaching, teaching and solving puzzles". However, in people’s traditional concept, the most profound impression on teachers is "teaching". Such understanding is one-sided. The construction of Ideological and political curriculum needs to combine these three aspects, and carry out "preaching, teaching and solving puzzles" at the same time. Teachers who teach English courses in Colleges and universities must strive to become disseminators of advanced ideology and culture, firm supporters of the party’s governance, guides and guides for the healthy growth of students while carrying out professional education for students. English learning for most students is boring, originally enthusiasm is not high, if teachers can not eliminate the old ideas in mind in time, it is bound to mislead students. Strengthen teachers’ study on Ideological and political aspects, keep up with the pace of the times, fill their hearts with ideals and beliefs and patriotic feelings, have a heart of benevolence and moral cultivation, pay attention to the unity of teaching and educating people,
words and deeds, and then they can set a good example in their daily words and deeds. Students’ learning needs teachers’ drive, and teachers’ moral character is the key to students’ growth. Teachers can only cultivate themselves through self-cultivation. Only by improving their own internal quality and moral realm can we help students establish a correct outlook on life, values and the world, so as to fundamentally help students learn.

Traditional English teaching is classroom centered, and students’ enthusiasm is not enough. This kind of teaching method focuses on students, which can give full play to students’ initiative and promote them to actively learn and explore English knowledge. At the same time, in-depth excavation of ideological and political spirits in teaching may guide the students to reflect ideological and political ideas in learning practice. When teaching in English class, teachers should not only impart professional language knowledge, but also deeply explore the traditional culture contained in English teaching materials, and organically integrate into the main content of socialist core values, optimize curriculum design, spread excellent culture, compare the differences between China and the west, cultivate cultural exchange awareness, enhance cultural self-confidence, and promote college students to have correct ideology and politics under the guidance of ideas, we will grow into excellent talents needed for socialist construction. For example, in English class, students are encouraged to participate actively by means of rewards and punishments. Teachers can stipulate the main purpose of the speech, have correct values, reflect certain educational significance, and guide students to study actively on the basis of correct values.

The goal of English education in Colleges and universities is to cultivate a group of international talents with strong comprehensive quality, both moral and talent, and keeping the socialist core values in mind, which requires students to have the ability to think about social problems in combination with professional knowledge. Therefore, it is a feasible way to explore the content of Ideological and political education and inspire students to think about values while learning professional knowledge. For example, in College English teaching, teachers can teach in groups according to the content and the level of students, so that students can discuss how to stop the immoral behavior in learning and life, or how to guide people around to establish correct ideas. In the process of students’ discussion, teachers should have affinity, create a strong academic atmosphere, promote the enthusiasm of the class, and make every student have the opportunity to speak as much as possible, and boldly tell their own unique views. At the same time, teachers should carefully and patiently listen to each student’s speech, objectively evaluate, put forward opinions, heuristic questions, and guide students to think deeply. Let students understand the core values of socialism in the discussion, establish the correct moral values, and inspire students to change the ideological and political ideas into practical actions.

Language learning needs a good environment, creating an environment to exercise English expression ability can promote English learning. The same is true of Ideological and political education. A campus with a strong ideological and political atmosphere is more conducive to the combination of knowledge and values. When college students are learning English on campus, they should create a kind of Ideological and political atmosphere for them, spread correct ideological and political thoughts anytime and anywhere in the courses, make students clearly feel the power of socialist core values, integrate ideological and political ideas into campus culture, and promote students to learn English under the guidance of correct values, so as to help them become the needs of socialist construction excellent talents.

Conclusion

College students are the hope of national development and the foundation of national progress. Strengthening the ideological and political education of college students is an important thing in the field of education in China, which has a profound impact on social development. Exploring the practical integration strategy of Ideological and political education and English curriculum education will help college students to establish a correct, healthy and comprehensive social cognitive concept in the process of learning English better, and play a particularly important role in improving the development of students’ English learning ability and promoting the better implementation of
Ideological and political education in colleges and universities. Taking ideological and political education as the guidance and integrating the ideological and political ideas into College English teaching can guide students to establish correct values, improve students’ enthusiasm for learning, improve the relationship between teachers and students, improve curricular efficiency, improve the quality of Ideological and political education of college students, and get rid of their current difficulties. Therefore, it is the only way for the reform of College English teaching to optimize the College English teaching methods by integrating the ideological and political concepts of courses. College English teachers should take college English course education as the starting point, and carry out targeted ideological and political education in funny English course education, which can not only help college students get better development in specific learning, but also comprehensively improve college students’ ideological understanding and cultural literacy, so as to drive college students to pay attention to ideological and political education and learn ideological and political education in the process of better learning English, so as to develop themselves from the perspective of exhibition and social needs, we should form a scientific, healthy and comprehensive cognitive literacy, effectively promote the mutual promotion and coordinated development of College English and ideological and political education in Colleges and universities, seek more scientific and reasonable integration path in continuous exploration and practice, and make breakthroughs in continuous implementation.

References