A Probe into the Introduction of British and American Culture in the Teaching of English Majors Based on Computer Assisted Technology

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Abstract. With the development of globalization, communication between countries is becoming more and more frequent. Since English is one of the most commonly international languages, Chinese students have been offered English courses at all stages. In the course of English reading, English major students are often restrained by cultural differences. In order to solve this problem effectively, teachers should actively introduce British and American culture so that students can understand articles better and then constantly improve their English reading ability. Therefore, this article will briefly explain British and American culture based on computer-assisted technology combined with some personal English learning experience. The importance of introduction lies in the teaching of English reading, and its content and methods are intended to provide readers with some help.

Keywords: English Major, Teaching in Reading, British and American Culture, Introduction, Computer Aided Technology

1. Introduction
Chinese students begin to learn English in primary school and have accumulated and mastered a certain amount of English words, so they can also use some grammars perfectly. But even some English major students find difficulties in understanding the exact meaning when encountering relatively long articles, which will be far from meeting the requirements of teachers of English majors. One of the most important reasons is the differences between Anglo-American culture and Chinese culture. Because some English reading materials are relatively pure Anglo-American ones[1]. However, Chinese students do not know enough about Anglo-American culture which brings unquestionable worries. Therefore, teachers should keenly explore the scientific and reasonable approaches of introducing the English and American culture for English major students and ensure them to better understand the English and American culture, which can eventually promise the teaching of English reading.

2. The significance of British and American reading introduction
Language is only a small part of a national or regional culture. If students can't really understand the norms and patterns of culture, it will be difficult for them to really learn the language. In the process of
learning English, if students can deeply understand the culture, they will understand and use English smoothly, adjust their reading speed and improve comprehension ability based on the context[2]. Language is not just an independent object but carries the culture of a country or region, which is tied to each other closely.

Table 1. language culture

| The advantage of import of British and American culture |
|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Deepen student understanding of what they are reading   |
| Explore the deep meaning of vocabulary                  |
| Widen students’ view                                    |

Moreover, the introduction of Anglo-American culture can make the classroom atmosphere more active. After understanding certain British and American cultural background, students can explore more profound cultural significance through these mundane English words, which not only broadens students' horizons and extend knowledge, but also stimulates students' interest in English learning.

3. The content of British and American culture introduction

3.1. The culture background of words
Words are mainly composed of the vocabulary and the grammar that are the most important part of the language and also contain profound cultural meanings. Because of the great differences between Chinese culture and British and American one, there are countless English words that do not correspond to Chinese translation, which leads to the vacancy of words. As a result, many students will be prevented from understanding and cause misunderstanding[3]. Moreover, many English words can be translated into Chinese but with subtle different meanings. It owes to the great differences between folk customs, geographical factors, the values and the history among the countries. Therefore, while the same concept is expressed, different meanings are generated due to the discrepancies in the cultural background. It may be an obstacle for us to understand the profound information that the author wants to express. On the premise of not knowing the English and American culture, it is difficult to understand the central thought expressed by the author, not to mention the profound meanings behind words. Therefore, students should not only master the literal meaning of English words, but also understand the cultural meaning behind to finally understand what authors want to transfer to readers.

3.2. British and American cultural values
Another major obstacle in teaching is the gap of values that are the internal core of a national or regional culture[4]. They are representatives of people's pursuit, principles of life, political ideas and social beliefs. It is also a fundamental standard for people to live, work and study. Therefore, if we understand the values of our country and the United States, it will be helpful for us to find out those basic cultural differences in reading materials. For example, people in our country are more inclined to collectivism while people in Britain and the United States are more inclined to individualism. If students do not understand the differences, they will judge the British and American values expressed in the article by the values of our country, which will lead to the wrong interpretation of the article.

4. The method of teachings in reading with British and American culture introduction

4.1. The comparisons and contrasts between East and West in class
In the course of teaching, teachers should fully and reasonably use the article material in the textbook,
compare the differences of the British and American culture, and then categorize the differences between the Chinese and foreign cultures through the cross-cultural knowledge. Such exercises guide students to think more profoundly about the reading materials in the English and American cultural background. In addition, the teacher should actively encourage the students to self-study the reading articles and materials related to the English and American culture and let them know the differences between culture of our country and the British and American culture by themselves, such as religious beliefs, customs, way of thinking, political concepts and other aspects[5].

Figure 1. American building culture

Meanwhile, the teacher should ponder more on how to combine English and American culture and reading articles in the classroom so as to make the students deeply feel the difference of the Chinese and Western culture and be familiar with their thinking pattern and cultural tips.

4.2. Make full use of the contents of the textbook to introduce the relevant cultural knowledge

In the class of English reading, teachers should utilize the teaching materials for class and then combine the relevant extracurricular knowledge to introduce the relevant British and American cultural knowledge to students so that students can understand more colorful British and American culture through the guidance of teachers[6]. In addition, teachers should also share more British and American cultural materials to students in combination with the contents of teaching materials while students can master more knowledge through independent reading, which can help cultivate their ability to learn independently at the same time.

4.3. Cultivate students’ habits of accumulating cultural knowledge

The study and accumulation of culture can’t be completed overnight, so teachers should encourage students to develop a good habit of accumulating cultural knowledge. In daily English reading, some dissenting words should be excavated deeply and completed by searching for materials on their own. Teachers should also actively recommend some useful British and American reading materials to students so that they can gradually accumulate and consolidate the cultural knowledge they have already learned.

5. Conclusion

All in all, to learn a language well means to have a certain understanding of its culture, especially in English reading. Students not only need to master rich vocabulary and grammar, but also should have a deep understanding of British and American culture. The introduction of British and American culture for English majors, on the one hand, can improve the teaching quality to a certain extent. On the other hand, it can enable students to grasp the real idea more accurately, especially for the process
of English teaching. Therefore, teachers should continue to explore scientifically and reasonably to introduce British and American culture to English majors. The use of computer-assisted technology will cultivate students' ability to recognize foreign cultural differences and is a preparation for further study.

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