The Difficulty and Countermeasure of Online Higher Vocational English Teaching

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Abstract: According to the fact of New Crown Pneumonia outbreak, analyze the necessity of online higher vocational English teaching during the disease prevention period and its practical dilemma in the online teaching effect, internet teaching hardware, mastery of knowledge and course evaluation, providing the countermeasures from the school, teachers, all departments and the parents.

Keywords: COVID-19; Internet teaching; Dilemma; Countermeasure

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The outbreak of the COVID-19 occurred in early 2020 disrupt the common life of people all over China and normal economic and social operation order. Affected by the COVID-19 and the distribution of governmental disease prevention work, the Spring Festival and enterprises’ business resumption had been delayed, all grades of school had been postponed to start, whose opening date depends on the disease prevention, greatly affecting fresh graduates as well. With the increasing spreading of the COVID-19, the school still cannot open for normal teaching. Calling for “Classes suspended but learning continues”, Heilongjiang Provincial Department of Education provide opportunity to enable teachers and students who cannot return to school to study at home, acquire the knowledge of prevention and control of new pneumonia and the daily learning content of school. However, there are still some limitations in online teaching compared with the face-to-face classroom teaching model. As a result, it’s really important for the front-line teachers to advance online teaching work in an orderly manner during the period of “away from school without leaving teaching, classes suspended but learning continues”, making sure the online, offline, and online are the same and minimizing the impact of the epidemic on teaching.

Based on the higher vocational English teaching guidelines and teaching concept, this article applies theory and method with the combination of teaching mode to introduce the necessity of online teaching, analyze the dilemma of higher vocational English online teaching, and advance practical measures under the condition of COVID-19, succeeding in the same quality and effect between the online teaching and class teaching during the period of COVID-19.

1 Necessity of higher vocational English online teaching during the epidemic

In order to prevent the COVID-19 spreading to the school and make sure the life security and health of teachers and students, the Ministry of Education has issued a notice to demand “Schools across the country be postponed the spring semester of 2020, students should be stay at home, not go outside, hold or participate in focused activities. At the same time, Guideline on the Organization and Management of online teaching in colleges and universities during the epidemic prevention and control period was issued specially, make clear that “With the way of government-leading, colleges and universities being subjects, society participation, carry out and ensure their online teaching during the epidemic to achieve ‘Classes stop but teaching continues, classes suspended but learning continues’” [2]. As a result, it’s essential to organize higher vocational English online teaching during the disease prevention.
1.1 Effective prevention of epidemic spreading to schools and life insurance of teachers and students

Since the epidemic outbreak, it has spread really fast and been confirmed the existence of human to human transmission, so the aggregation activities should be avoided as much as possible. The teachers and students whether the study in campus or rest in dormitory will gather together. Besides, the students coming from all over the country will meet different people when returning to the school, which has great risk of infection. Therefore, the colleges and universities delay open date and take the measure of internet teaching to effectively prevent the epidemic spreading to the campus and ensure the teachers and students life safety.

1.2 Help for the completion of school teaching task

Making teachers and students off at home during the disease prevention can not only foster their laziness but also leave the students without guidance and do not know what to do. Otherwise, it will also have great influence on all majors’ teaching and disrupt the original arrangements and plans. During the epidemic prevention, the online teaching can make sure the teaching plans successful and students learn as planned, which will not affect the later teaching and the students’ graduation.

2 The practical dilemma of higher vocational English online teaching in the epidemic period

There is still a lot of practical dilemma in the process of online teaching when the traditional class teaching changes to online teaching though its necessity during the COVID-19.

2.1 Unsatisfactory teaching effect of online teaching

With the space and time limitations of online teaching, the students’ learning effect and mastery of knowledge cannot be known by the teachers, who cannot adjust the course content and schedule by observing the students’ receptivity as in the classroom. Although online classes could sign-in but are unable to keep track of students' learning dynamics with the time wasted.

Due to time constraints, teachers cannot answer students’ questions each by each during the online course, especially for English class. The students' spoken English homework cannot be verified one by one instead of just only explaining the new course content, both the teaching effect and learning effect were poor.

2.2 Poor hardware condition of online teaching

As the keynote lecturer, the teacher must master the hardware device well which includes mobile phones, computers and the broadband network at home. Because the stability of the network will directly have impact on the live teaching effect, once the network cut off, or home power cut down, the whole class will be a disaster.

It is the same to the students, the improvement of people's living standards does not mean that students have a computer with broad bandeachat home. It is a difficult thing for students who do not have computers to attend classes. There is a student of mine whose home suddenly occurred power failure, it is embarrassing for him to find that the teacher and the classmates are looking for him until he can online with missing one class.

During the outbreak, the network instability, stop, crash of online classes are common things, the influence of network server overload on online classes should not be underestimated.

2.3 Unguarantee of knowledge mastery and course evaluation

Most problems the students reflect for online teaching are like: teacher, I have been taking endless notes in and off class. They have little time to absorb and reflect on what they have learned, notes are queuing up today and tomorrow. Most teachers use instant messaging tools such as QQ, reply to it and too many messages have already gone far in less than a minute. They need both the han wechat and nail to answer questions online.

Once a question comes up, many students d speed and vision to really get effective information, which making them feel powerless.

It is also difficult to carry out online course evaluation, homework and tests left by the teacher cannot avoid students’ plagiarism and cheating. If only to avoid cheating and compressing test time, it's unscientific and unable to accurately grasp the students' learning mastery.
3 Countermeasures of higher vocational English online teaching during the epidemic

It is indeed that there are many practical difficulties in online English teaching in higher vocational colleges during the epidemic period. Schools and teachers should reasonably reform the teaching plan, course setup, carefully select the contents of online English teaching and integrate teaching resources based on combination of actual situation to improve the effect of network teaching.

3.1 Scientific setting of courses and effect improvement of network teaching

During the prevention and control of the epidemic, "colleges and universities should work out the implementation plan of online teaching during epidemic prevention and control to improve teaching efficiency, ensure teaching quality and complete teaching tasks. Reasonably adjust and overall arrange the spring and fall semester curriculum teaching plan [2]." Schools should start their online education, organize teacher training, be familiar with various online teaching software operation process and the network of quality teaching resources. Teachers should change the teaching plan properly, adjust the course content and select the knowledge points and materials suitable for the network teaching according to the particularity of the epidemic period, developing students' learning interest and helping them master the learning content.

Meanwhile, teachers should also carefully prepare courseware, adjust teaching design specially for online teaching, pay attention to "teaching" and "learning" in the allocation of time. In terms of the online teaching characteristics, take the innovative teacher-student interaction to "live" up the online teaching. Finally, teachers should guide students to study themselves, develop self-study habits, stimulate students to learn the sense of responsibility, urgency and initiative, inspire and guide students to carry out deep self-learning, and improve learning efficiency continually.

3.2 Promotion of multi-party cooperation and assurance of online teaching’s normal operation

As a result of the particularity of the epidemic, the whole country started online teaching at the same time, which undoubtedly brought great challenge to all platforms, servers and operators. At the start of online teaching, there are problems like poor signal, unstable network signal, overload of server, network congestion and so on. For this, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of industry and the Ministry of Information have issued a circular requiring all local communications agencies to coordinate with the education sector. Set up coordination mechanism, cooperate with online teaching, ensure online teaching to carry out and run successfully. In addition, the three major operators, UNICOM, mobile, telecommunications also provide students and teachers with preferential flow packets and flow cards, for the Home Network of teachers and students to provide network facilities, enabling them to have online class smoothly.

3.3 Joint monitoring with teachers and parents, help for students learning effectively

During the whole process of online teaching, the problems of students' online learning come up one after another: some students study without plans, cannot complete the learning tasks consciously and actively; some students just perform as having online classes, sitting in front of the computer distracted; and some students cannot be on time for class and play online games at that time, etc. For this situation, both parents and teachers need to work together, communicate with each other on time, and solve problems at any time found. Many parents ignore the importance of child discipline in higher education, just relying on teachers to educate their students, or do not know how to properly guide their students due to their limited educational level, which requires parents to clearly realize their responsibilities and work with their children to develop an online learning plan and tasks to be completed, helping their children clearly define their learning goals and tasks and arrange their time appropriately, working with their children to build self-discipline and self-confidence in learning. Moreover, work with teachers to effectively monitor children's learning and improve their learning outcomes.

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