Study on the Application of CALL in College Oral English Language Teaching

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Abstract: For a long time, Computer-aided language Leaching(CALL) system has been widely used in College English teaching practice. With the deepening of education informatization reform, how to use CALL to improve college oral English teaching has become a hot research topic. Therefore, this paper analyzes the characteristics of the application of CALL in oral English teaching, and puts forward some improving strategies and optimizing measures under the background of education informatization, aiming to enhance the role of CALL system in oral English teaching, so as to improve the teaching effect and teaching quality of college oral English.

1. Introduction

With the development of information technology and the popularity of the Internet, Computer-assisted Language Teaching (CALL) is widely used in the field of English language teaching, and has become an important means to improve the quality of English language teaching. CALL has been considered as a prime facilitator both for English language acquisition and language teaching. In the information age, it has attracted a large number of English teachers and educators to study the potential of CALL in language acquisition and teaching and strategies to accelerate the reform of language education with the help of CALL. A huge amount of research has been carried out in the related fields in recent years that has further improved the application of CALL in elementary education as well as higher education. This paper focuses on the application of CALL in college oral English language teaching.

2. Analysis of the application of CALL in English language teaching under education informatization.

Education informatization is generally understood from two dimensions. On the one hand, from the teachers’ perspective, education informatization requires the teachers to integrate computer-technology-related knowledge into higher education, guide students to master information technology to assist learning, and create better learning environment and learning conditions for students; at the same time, teachers should actively carry out information-based teaching and actively use information technology to assist language teaching in class and after class to improve teaching effect. On the other hand, from the students’ perspective, they should actively master information technology, use various information-based learning platforms to obtain various learning resources, improve their self-learning ability, and actively carry out autonomous learning. In the information age, both the teachers and the students are supposed to keep learning the information technology to help them with self-study and self-improvement Only. by which can they keep up with the rapid development of the society.

As for education informatization of college English, it requires teachers to actively use information
technology to assist language teaching both in class and after class, actively carry out information-based teaching such as MOOC, micro class and multimedia teaching, etc, to improve language teaching effect and realize effective teaching. CALL has already been widely used in college English language teaching, especially in oral English teaching and practice, which has been proved to effectively improve the teaching effect and greatly accelerate students’ language acquisition.

3. Analysis of the features of CALL in oral English teaching

3.1 The real teaching context helps to improve the effect of oral English practice.
College English language teaching relies more and more on information technology. Big data and information technology have been playing an increasingly important role in promoting language teaching effect, especially in oral English teaching and training. Oral English teaching needs to present English language points through graphic information, video data, sound transmission and other ways, create language-using context and language learning environment to get the students involved. From the basic pronunciation to the coherence and fluency of language expression, it all depends on the real language context. With the progress and the reform of information technology, colleges and universities have optimized the multimedia classroom, set up terminal equipment for students' oral training in language lab, and developed more advanced language training software. The virtual language scene set by computers improves the sense of participation, which greatly improves their oral expression ability and stimulates their interest in language learning. In conclusion, CALL has greatly improved the language learning effect by creating language context and improving teaching environment and the opportunities of students' oral practice has been greatly increased by interpersonal interaction as well as human-computer interaction.

3.2 Instant teaching feedback helps to realize personalized teaching.
One of the advantages of CALL, especially in oral English teaching, is audio-frequency acquisition technology and comparison technology. The computer can collect the students' pronunciation and compare it with the standard pronunciation saved by the computer. It can give feedback about the students' pronunciation as well as whether it is standard or not, and provide opportunities for improvement. Students can practice repeatedly according to the feedback information and make improvement in their pronunciation and language expression. For example, the computer can feedback the accuracy of students' oral expression in the form of scores, and mark out the parts where the pronunciation is not correct, and tell students how to improve it. Through human-computer interaction, students can repeatedly practice and correct their own pronunciation and expression. At the same time, the computer records the students' learning data, which reflect the situation of students' oral expression and the effect of language practice. Teachers can use these data to learn the overall learning situation of students as well as the existing problems. According to the specific problems in each student's practice, teachers can give specified guidance and accurate help to individual student. In a word, CALL has greatly promoted students' oral practice and teachers' personalized teaching by collecting data, summarizing evaluation and instant feedback.

3.3 The diversity of teaching resources helps students to carry out autonomous learning.
In recent years, with the help of information technology and various digital platforms, a large number of online open English courses have been developed and put into use, which greatly enriches English language teaching and enables the teachers to direct the learners to study autonomously. Abundant digital teaching resources offer students great help in language study as students can easily and quickly obtain various learning resources with the help of the network, computers or smart phones. They can carry out their study anytime and anywhere and practice oral English by themselves or with the computer or with a partner. In addition, the development of various language-learning software not only arouses the learners’ interest in oral English practice, but also enables learners to have more learning methods and practice opportunities. In the information age, CALL has been developed
unprecedentedly and deeply involved in all aspects of English language learning, which has brought great convenience both for the teachers and for the learners. The diversification of teaching resources not only helps teachers to carry out teaching activities flexibly, but also helps to cultivate students' autonomous learning ability.

3.4 The flexible teaching mode helps to expand the learning time and space.
In the information age, students' learning is no longer limited by time and place. With the guarantee of information technology and online open learning platform, students can study anytime and anywhere, and teachers can guide students anytime and anywhere. Traditional teaching has been liberated unprecedentedly. Classrooms are no longer the only places for learning, and students' learning space and time are extended dramatically. In the information age, CALL has been developed deeply, which makes the teaching and learning in the new era have more connotation, and the teaching mode more flexible and diverse. The tasks of oral English Teaching that can be completed in the classroom is relatively limited, and with the help of network learning platform and oral practice software, students can finish the learning tasks effectively and efficiently according to teaching requirement by human-computer cooperation. The teachers can easily carry out language teaching on the interactive platform teach, guiding students to practice oral English. In a word, the application of computer and information technology makes oral English teaching mode more flexible and diverse, which greatly expands the teaching and learning both for teachers and for students, and makes the learning space and time infinite.

4. Strategies to improve the application of CALL in oral English teaching.
Although many advantages are displayed in CALL, teachers still play a prime role in oral English teaching, as perfect teaching effect can not achieved automatically only by CALL. It is of great necessity for teachers to make teaching plans, prepare teaching materials, choose proper teaching methods and make appropriate class arrangements. All of these can not be achieved only by CALL. Whether the anticipated teaching effect can be achieved depends greatly on the cooperation of teachers, learners and teaching methods and facilities. Thus, how to use CALL to promote the language teaching effect is still a problem worthy to study.

4.1 Optimize the CALL system to satisfy the demand of oral English teaching.
The developing trend of informatization determines the developing direction of CALL system, and oral English teaching in Colleges and universities should also comply with the demands of the times and take a more perfect teaching system as the development elements of oral English teaching. Therefore, we should constantly optimize the CALL system, create more authentic language scenarios for students and provide more authentic learning materials. If possible, VR technology can be applied to the field of language teaching, which will be the developing direction of CALL in language teaching in Colleges and universities. VR (virtual reality technology) can create a more realistic language communication environment for students. In the three-dimensional dynamic audio-visual experience, students can form a very similar experience effect with the objective world, and the immersion itself is the best mode of human-computer interaction. It is of great significance to develop a CALL system with stronger experience effect for oral English teaching in colleges and universities.

4.2 Expand the auxiliary function of the communication software in oral English practice.
Language is the carrier of culture, so language learning is inseparable from culture. The problem of cross-cultural communication inevitably exists in oral English learning. That is to say, students will inevitably have barriers in cross-cultural communication. Therefore, under the CALL teaching mode, teachers can fully tap the auxiliary role of social software in English communication under the network environment, hold online English salon by inviting English native speakers to participate in activities. Students can directly talk with the English native speakers and discuss some concerned issues in English. Through these activities, students can not only practice oral expression and learn
some authentic ways of expression, but they can also learn foreign cultures and meanwhile spread our traditional cultures. Therefore, teachers should fully explore the auxiliary role of the communication software in oral English practice.

4.3 Construct cooperative and interactive communication platform and optimize oral teaching resources

Under the condition of information technology, CALL has higher requirements for teachers and students on the information literacy ability, and also has more dependence on the network teaching communication platform. Therefore, in order to meet the requirements of oral English teaching, the network teaching platform should be constantly optimized, the digital teaching resources should be constantly updated, and teachers should invest more time to improve the teaching design. CALL oral learning mode is a purposeful and planned study based on the network learning platform. It is necessary to give full play to the auxiliary role of network for oral English practice, actively develop and improve the network communication platform, continuously optimize the oral teaching resources, increase the interest and interaction of language learning so as to improve the effect of language learning.

4.4 Strengthen teachers’ instruction and cultivate learners’ autonomous study ability and consciousness with the help of CALL

In the information age, with the help of computer and network, students can easily and quickly access to a large number of learning resources, but in the face of massive online learning resources, they will feel at a loss and do not know how to carry out learning. The main task of teachers is to help students familiarize the language learning platform, arrange targeted learning tasks, offer timely follow-up guidance, and offer feedback of their oral English practice. Furthermore, teachers should guide students to learn how to search and screen information after class, make rational use of network resources and carry out self-study purposefully. In the CALL teaching mode, the guidance and supervision of teachers is very important as language practice should be purposeful and planned at any time. Only in this way can we give full play to the real role of CALL and improve the effect of language learning. In order to better the application of CALL in oral English teaching, teachers are supposed to help cultivate learners’ autonomous study ability and consciousness with CALL by guiding the learners to actively make study plans and purposefully use online study platforms.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, with the continuous development of network and information technology, CALL has been widely used in college English language teaching, especially in college oral English teaching. With CALL system, the language teaching situation are well optimized and the language teaching resources are greatly expanded. However, there are still some problems existing in oral English teaching with CALL. The CALL system still needs to be optimized to satisfy the demand of oral English teaching, the auxiliary function of the communication software needs to be expanded in oral English practice. Schools are supposed to further construct the cooperative and interactive communication platform and optimize oral teaching resources. Language teachers are required to strengthen learning instruction and cultivate learners’ autonomous study ability and consciousness with the help of CALL. Study on the application of CALL in oral English teaching plays an important role in language teaching reform and there is still a long way to go.

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