An Empirical Study Based on the Teaching Quality and Related Issues of Japanese Education in Colleges and Universities

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Abstract: China’s social and economic development has developed rapidly in recent years. International trade is getting closer and closer, trade and cultural exchanges with Japan have increased year by year. China’s foreign policy gradually develops towards internationalization. Japanese language plays a very important role in the process of friendly cooperation between China and Japan. At this juncture and circumstances, many universities have added Japanese language majors in order to improve the Japanese language communication skills among domestic college students and learn more about Japanese language and culture. Compared with English, Japanese is not a widely spoken language. Moreover, the Japanese language is used less frequently and has a smaller range of application. At present, Japanese has not become a major language communication tool for Chinese and as well as for foreign communication. Some universities still use the traditional teaching methods of the past to teach Japanese language. Teachers are not capable enough, it simply cannot meet the actual development needs of modern society, which requires us to pay enough attention to the teaching of Japanese in colleges and universities, in our work we summarize the problems existing in the teaching process of Japanese language today, and formulate corresponding perfect countermeasures.

Keywords: College Japanese, Education, Teaching quality, Related issues

Necessity and importance of Japanese learning in universities

The necessity of Japanese courses in major universities in China is mainly reflected in the following aspects: 1. The language system of college education has been very well enriched. In recent years, the education system of major universities in China has gradually developed towards internationalization, and the demand for language talents has been increasing. Under the environment of rapid development of English, learning Japanese can effectively enhance the richness of language subjects. 2. Through teaching of Japanese language, more international talents can be cultivated for the country. Although China and Japan had a very violent war, and every citizen have those footprints in their mind, but we cannot ignore the influence of Japanese culture in the international arena. In the actual teaching process, we should focus on the cultivation of cross-cultural communication ability and students’ independent thinking ability. You can also take variety of extracurricular interaction methods to allow students to continuously improve their oral Japanese communication skills through Japanese conversation, fully understand the social customs and national culture of the Japanese country, and the discussion-based learning model is also a widely used method in colleges and universities. In due course of setting up Japanese language courses in universities, Japanese and English education should be given equal importance and in such way Japanese should be taught to Chinese students. In addition, from the perspective of national culture teaching foreign language is also very important in this new era.
2 Analysis of current situation of Japanese teaching in colleges

2.1 Outdated teaching content and weak resources

As far as the current situation in our country is concerned, many universities have a single phenomenon of Japanese textbooks and still following the same methodology of Japanese teaching as in the past. This leads to the inability of students to fully grasp the Japanese learning process and always experience specific repeated teaching activities. The phenomenon of repeated education has some serious imperfections in the teaching of basic Japanese, which has caused a certain obstacle to the construction of the Japanese teaching system. Another phenomenon is that regardless of colleges and universities in order to increase student enrollment they have just blindly refine the majors and did not refine the actual situation. In the course of setting up different Japanese majors, there is a phenomenon of repeated teaching content. This is very detrimental for students to master Japanese knowledge.

2.2 Single teaching mode

Many colleges and universities in China still use the traditional teaching mode in the Japanese teaching process. They always regard teachers as the main body of the classroom. The teaching content is a simple explanation of content in the teaching materials. Not enough attention has been paid to the core role of students. Based on past experience, in most colleges and universities in the Japanese language teaching process, teachers just stand on the podium to explain the content of the textbook, and the interaction with the students is minimal with few intermittent questions. Students’ task is to sit during the lecture, there was not a close exchange and discussion with each other. Even though the teaching content was constantly changing, the same teaching method was still used. In addition, the hardware facilities of Japanese teaching in many universities is not at all up to the standard, and modern information technology has not been fully integrated into Japanese teaching activities. Some schools are equipped with modern facilities, but teachers cannot operate and use them well, and they do not make good use of the vast amount of information on the Internet. Multimedia seems to be another kind of blackboard, and it does not play its true role. The application of multimedia equipment in actual teaching activities is simply as like a demonstration of the blackboard. Due to the simplification of teaching methods, the actual Japanese teaching level and teaching quality cannot be improved well. Of course, it is not possible to increase students’ interest in Japanese language learning, failed to reach the goal of Japanese teaching, let alone cultivate students’ independent innovation ability.

2.3 Lagging of teaching staff and simplified curriculum

In the context of the new curriculum reform, people pay great attention to educational talents and universities have been required to cultivate more composite talents. Due to internationalization trade between China and Japan is growing in higher pace as compared to before. Colleges and universities are required to strengthen comprehensive education for Japanese language majors. However, the development of qualities among teaching staffs in many universities in China is relatively lagging behind, and the curriculum arrangement is relatively simple. To change this situation schools should build their own professional teacher team, plan well ahead for the establishment of Japanese courses in universities and promote a major breakthrough in the performance of Japanese education in universities.

2.4 Unscientific teaching evaluation

The main task of teaching evaluation is to make accurate judgments on the learning outcomes of students. At the same time, it can also be used as a standard to measure the teaching level of a teacher. At present major universities in China generally use two methods: oral test and written test which is also the final evaluation method. It seems to be fair and objective but in fact it completely ignores the entire learning process of the students. So it is impossible to summarize the various problems in the actual learning process of the students. Of course, we cannot make appropriate adjustments to actual teaching activities based on actual conditions. It is evident that the teaching evaluation is only the teacher’s evaluation of the student’s learning results. There is no evaluation of teachers and students by themselves and they seriously lack in student self-evaluation and group evaluation. It is precisely because of this unscientific model of teaching evaluation that the quality of Japanese education in universities is not high and the practicality is seriously insufficient. The purpose of students’ study is to cope with the exams and they have not paid enough attention to the cultivation of innovative awareness and thinking.
3 Strategies to improve the quality of Japanese education in universities

3.1 Advantages of Japanese education

Major colleges and universities should continue to improve teachers and students getting aware of Japanese language and its importance and schools should vigorously promote the important role that Japanese education plays in the development of our society. Cultivate more diverse Japanese talents for national development. In 2007, some universities in China established a master’s degree in Japanese translation. Through the training and improvement of Japanese listening, speaking, reading and writing skills for postgraduates, translation has an irreplaceable position in the process of Sino-Japanese language exchange. It can be said as a bridge for the smooth exchange and communication of Chinese and Japanese cultures. Through the training of Japanese translation talents more diversified Japanese talents can be directly exported there’re by allowing Chinese people to have a better understanding of Japan’s education, politics, culture, and economics, and realize the mutual rendering and learning of Chinese and Japanese cultures. It can be seen that cultivating diversified Japanese talents not only can provide more opportunities for promotion, but also enhance Sino-Japanese friendly relations internationally.

3.2 Establishing a new Japanese education concept

With the rapid pace of development in this era, the traditional education concepts that are backward in the past can no longer meet the practical requirements of modern society and talent training. We should continue to innovate and change traditional concepts and establish new Japanese education concepts. At first when Japanese courses were set up in Chinese universities, many college students had certain degree of resistance to Japanese, mainly because of the influence of the history of the War of Resistance against Japan and they always felt that the Chinese people had been humiliated by Japan. We should look at issues and Japanese culture from the perspective of internationalization, and sort out more international resources for China’s future development by sorting out internationalization and new education concepts. The main outlets of talents in China are major universities, which are talent training and export bases. After that high-quality resources can be provided to students to fully reflect the educational value of colleges and universities, and Japanese language could be a breakthrough. Colleges and universities should take the training of Japanese talents as the teaching goal, promote the development of Japanese in China under the guidance of new teaching concepts, and cannot simply oppose Japanese and Japanese culture.

3.3 Teaching mode updation

In order to continuously improve the comprehensive effect of Japanese teaching in colleges and universities in China. Japanese teachers need to fully integrate the actual characteristics and interests of students. Keep continuously reforming and integrating the content of existing Japanese language textbooks in China and select the basic teaching material that are most suitable for the students’ actual level. By learning the Japanese language at the basic level to better understand the Japanese cultural background, it is easy to truly achieve the depth of basic knowledge transmission and quality education. In addition, Japanese language teachers should reasonably apply modern network technology in the daily teaching process, and use the Internet as an important platform for Japanese teaching to better ensure the timeliness and advanced nature of Japanese course content while also ensuring Japanese the nature of language teaching resources. In the new modern teaching process Japanese teachers need to integrate the teaching of listening, speaking, reading, writing, general description, intensive reading, and grammar into the Japanese curriculum system. On the basis of ensuring the quality of basic knowledge teaching, they must increase the knowledge system and skills the intensity of research on the relationship between the emphasis on the acquisition of skills and language exchange.

3.4 Setting up a reasonable Japanese education mechanism

It is also very important to ensure the scientificity and rationality of the Japanese education mechanism. In fact, it is to build an appropriate Japanese learning system according to the actual situation. The specific construction of curriculum needs to be carried out according to the various aspects of Japanese disciplines. Japanese is now an important language discipline at major universities and there are certain differences between it and other disciplines. We must not only consider the excellent level of exam-oriented education in the process of talent training, but in fact we should judge the degree of Japanese professional knowledge
of a student through examinations. At the same time, we must also focus on the formulation of teaching materials. When setting up the curriculum system, we must pay sufficient attention to the issues of talent training and talent development as well as other related issues such as employment and further education. In recent years, China has borrowed a part of the Japanese cultural education teaching model, integrated more Japanese culture in the actual teaching process and withdrawn the most scientific and reasonable electronic courseware system to allow students to choose different types of Japanese courses.

3.5 Japanese studies with Chinese characteristics

In order to realize Japanese teaching with Chinese characteristics, it is necessary to reflect the differences from other disciplines. Although there are great differences between Chinese and Japanese culture, China can absorb positives from it according to its actual situation. For example, the introduction of Japanese or advanced Japanese teaching concepts. Especially in the study of Japanese terminology, learn the laws of language and gradually build a team of Japanese education and teaching teachers with Chinese characteristics. If the actual conditions allow it, it is best to hire some foreign students who do not write abroad and communicate with Chinese Japanese students. In order to provide students with a more intuitive and appropriate feeling. In the modern Internet era, the rapid development of multimedia technology and the variety of online teaching methods have better promoted the continuous improvement of the quality of Japanese education and teaching in China and also allowed students to immediately sense the dynamic changes of Japanese culture.

3.6 Maximize the potential and strength of teachers

According to China’s current situation, the professional teachers studying in Japan have become an important part of Japanese language teaching and research in major universities in China. Therefore, if college conditions permit, more teachers can be sent to Japan for studies and maintain close and long-term contacts with domestic institutions. So that domestic college Japanese teachers can be quick in understanding and grasping the latest changes in the Japanese language and mastering the latest developments in the academic field of Japanese language. It has laid a solid foundation for the continuous improvement of Japanese language education, teaching and research results in China and can be used as a certificate to carry out various Japanese language teaching and practice activities in the future. In addition, universities can also invite foreign students studying in Japan to teach and exchange with Japanese students in the school or hire some high-quality talents to serve as guest professors or part-time professors in the school to better promote the Japanese majors in Chinese universities. Improve the comprehensive strength of teaching.

3.7 Strengthen online education

With the advent of the internet era, colleges and universities should also fully integrate the networked teaching mode in Japanese education and teaching activities. This teaching method is not restricted by time and place, hence can be searched on the network platform based on the characteristics of students. The learning materials a student needs and could choose the learning methods that suit you and can better ensure the learning effect. Combining Japanese teaching with online education mode makes the personalized teaching mode more efficient and flexible, and improves the efficiency and quality of Japanese teaching. At the same time, the online teaching mode can also effectively minimise the gap between students and teachers. Students fully participate in classroom teaching activities while that helps in making up for the learning difficulties of students with poor hearing.

3.8 Enriching teaching evaluation to encourage student innovation

During the construction of the Japanese teaching evaluation mechanism, the following principles should be strictly observed: 1. The principle of motivation - Teachers and students should be aware that teaching evaluation and examination are two completely different concepts. Constructing a scientific evaluation system can not only motivate students but also keep students from focusing solely on test results. 2. The principle of pluralism - It mainly refers to the diversity of evaluation objectives, evaluation subjects and evaluation tools. Especially the diversity of evaluation subjects. In addition to Japanese teachers, students and daily managers should also actively participate in the evaluation subjects. 3. The principle of practical application - The ultimate goal of Japanese teaching is to better promote the smooth development of China’s internationalization. Therefore, practical application ability and teaching should be closely linked as an
important content of teaching evaluation. Japanese itself is a tool for people to communicate and to communicate with each other. So we must pay attention to students’ practical ability and incorporate it into teaching evaluation. Teaching evaluation depends not only on how much basic knowledge the student masters in Japanese, it also depends on whether the students use Japanese to express their emotions.

As a concluding remark, after a detailed analysis of the importance of Japanese teaching in colleges and universities and several important issues now a series of effective improvements and solutions are put forward. With a view to continuously improving the basic knowledge of Japanese majors in Chinese universities It can also promote the continuous improvement of China’s international development level and cultivate more outstanding talents for the rapid development of our society.

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