The Reform of English Reading Course in Application-oriented Talent Training Mode

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Abstract—The need of the society for English application-oriented talents has led to the corresponding reform measures of education in education concept, training target and subject orientation. This paper focuses on importance, necessity and realization approaches of English reading curriculum reform in the mode of application-oriented personnel training.

Key words—Applied talents, English reading course, Importance; Necessity, Realization approaches

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH READING CURRICULUM REFORM IN APPLICATION-ORIENTED TALENT TRAINING MODE

The English teaching outline of English majors in colleges and universities in China has clearly put forward training objectives of English majors, which mean to develop a comprehensive English talent with solid English language foundation and extensive cultural knowledge and English proficiency in translation, teaching, management and research in foreign affairs, education, trade, culture, science and technology, military and other departments. In the past ten years, the construction of English major in colleges and universities in our country has faced new situations and tasks. Economic globalization, integration of science and technology, cultural diversity, information network and increasingly fierce competition between countries have put forward new challenges to English major teaching philosophy and training target in our country[1]. College English teaching reform has been in full swing. Multimedia teaching aids such as digitization and networking have been widely used and developed in foreign language teaching. The reform of education in English major and discipline construction have also shown a trend of diversification. These changes and development have undoubtedly put forward new and higher requirements for subject orientation and talent cultivation of English majors[2]. In 2013, our university conducted a double reform, which broke the original single talent training mode. As the old professional in our university, English major has also confronted with continuous teaching reform and transformation of talent training mode to meet the requirements of double reform work in our university and the training objectives and specifications specified in the outline[3]. Therefore, it is very important to reform English reading course which is the main course of English major.

II. THE NECESSITY OF ENGLISH READING CURRICULUM REFORM IN APPLICATION-ORIENTED TALENT TRAINING MODE

English reading is an important course in English major, which aims to help students improve their English level and expand their scope of knowledge by amounts of reading. However, at present, our English reading course teaching mode is still far from the requirements of applied talent training target. And there are also certain hysteresis phenomena in teaching contents, teaching methods, teaching means, examination modes, teachers’ construction and so on. It can be said that the reform of teaching mode for English reading course is the most urgent and important in the new situation. It aims at changing teachers’ education teaching philosophy, changing teachers’ role and changing classroom teaching mode, emphasizing that English reading classroom teaching should adopt the mode of task-based language teaching, guiding, taking into account communicative functions and language knowledge structure learning in a gradual and life-changing learning process and guiding students to learn English independently by reading digital learning platform in English. Under teachers’ guidance, students can achieve the goal of English learning tasks through practice, participation, cooperation and communication, feeling successful[4]. To solve the problem of only paying attention to imparting knowledge and ignoring independent learning ability and reading ability training in English reading class for a long time”, the disadvantages of traditional classroom teaching mode, cultivate students’ knowledge application ability and innovation consciousness.

III. THE REALIZATION APPROACHES OF ENGLISH READING CURRICULUM REFORM IN APPLICATION-ORIENTED TALENT TRAINING MODE

English reading course utilizes an interactive independent learning platform integrating online reading courses, learning resources and learning services, which is built by the center of the institute of foreign studies. The design of this platform emphasizes learners’ dominant position and realizes that knowledge is not simply passed to students but is constructed by students themselves[5]. At the same time, the platform design both takes into account teachers’ participation in learning needs and provides class concepts, which can realize students’ online tutoring in this class, real-time monitoring, quick statistics and other functions, in order to realize students’ autonomous learning, communication and interaction between teachers and students, scientifically and accurately evaluating students’ grades. The reform has been realized in the following aspects.
    IV. EDUCATION CONCEPT REFORM

    Using the network digital learning platform which can be provided by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press (FLTRP) can be around the applied talent training goal, emphasizing education philosophy based on students and paying attention to cultivation of students' practical ability and innovative spirit. Traditional teaching philosophy advocates teachers as the main body, and traditional English reading courses are no exception. However, this new network digital learning platform in the teaching of English reading has changed the traditional education philosophy, requiring teachers to escape from accustomed traditional roles and transforming from knowledge transfers in the traditional teaching to participants, organizers and guides in students' learning activities. Teachers' role is no longer regarded as grantors of knowledge but as promoters, illuminators, doubters and demonstrators of students' learning activities. Teachers' guiding role is fully played, which truly reflects the education concept that students are the main body and teachers are the dominant[6]. New cooperation between teachers and students in English reading classroom teaching process is mainly reflected in teachers' guided-learning and students' self-study, then realizing the education philosophy based on students.

    V. TEACHING FORM REFORM

    Using the network digital learning platform which is provided by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press (FLTRP) can change the traditional teaching way to task-based learning and autonomous learning, change teachers' role from a single teaching type to a variety of types, such as teaching, communication and interaction. Teachers use the online digital learning platform to issue preview tasks before the English reading class and students will study independently according to preview tasks. In the courses of classroom teaching, teachers and students can use the network to conduct bilateral or multilateral classroom exchange activities, such as, teachers can check students' preview tasks[7]. Students can ask questions about the teaching content. Students' questions can be answered online by teachers and other students. Teachers can guide students to think. Teachers and students discuss problems together, communicate with each other, listen to each other, question to each other and solve problems together.

    VI. TEACHING CONTENT REFORM

    Using the network digital learning platform which is provided by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press (FLTRP) can combine with appropriate textbook contents and supplement with learning materials related to background so as to improve students' thinking ability and humanistic and scientific literacy. Before the English reading class, teachers can let students search related information (including texts, images, etc.) online and gather a large number of relevant information with pictures and share with classmates in class. In such a learning environment, students actively seek knowledge and maintain the most voracious appetite for knowledge[8]. Students' ability to collect, collate and analyze relevant information can improve their ability of thinking as well as their humanistic and scientific qualities.

    VII. TEACHING METHOD REFORM

    Using the network digital learning platform which is provided by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press (FLTRP) can guide cognitive theory and discover how to learn through the individual active exploration. Under the direction of constructivism learning theory, teachers' role is changed so that teachers are both knowledge transmitters and students' helpers. Explore the student-centered English reading teaching mode, through class activities, such as group work, role playing, class discussion and so forth, to make students give full play to their subjective initiative, actively participate in classroom teaching, highlight students' dominant position in teaching. Thus, it is easy to achieve proficiency in language use.

    VIII. ASSESSMENT MODE REFORM

    Using the network digital learning platform which is provided by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press (FLTRP) can reform the traditional assessment mode. The platform can provide scientific and accurate evaluation data on students' reading speed and reading accuracy in order to explore a suitable, scientific assessment method for English reading. The traditional English reading course assessment is mainly in the form of paper tests, which can use questions in the paper to assess students’ reading speed, accuracy and vocabulary. However, although digital learning platform is to assess students' reading speed, accuracy and vocabulary, it can monitor students to complete each of tasks online and use the average to be the final grades of a semester[9]. The application of this new assessment mode in the English reading course is scientific, reasonable, accurate and fair, which can mobilize students’ enthusiasm to learn and improve teaching quality to achieve final training goal.

    All in all, network technology is becoming more and more involved in every field of society with an unprecedented power and education as a subsystem of society is facing unprecedented challenges. We should make good use of the network digital learning platform provided by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press (FLTRP) to realize the real reform of the English reading course, which includes education concept reform, teaching form reform, teaching content reform, teaching method reform and assessment mode reform[10]. Only in this way can students develop their knowledge application and
innovation consciousness. Only in this way can teachers realize the true teaching reform and transform talent training mode. Only in this way can universities cultivate the applied talents that society needs.

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