Brief Discussion on the Application of Micro Course in the Flipped Classroom of Professional English in Higher Vocational Education—Taking Hotel English as an Example

Lu-Sha ZHANG
Chongqing Business Vocational College, Chongqing, China

Keywords: Micro Course, Professional English, Flipped Classroom, Hotel English

Abstract. With the development of science and technology, information-based teaching methods have gradually become popular. Teaching methods such as pictures + video + interesting animation have improved the traditional teaching mode, made the classroom alive, and increased students' interest in learning. This article uses the "micro class" combined with the "flip class" teaching mode, allowing the "micro class" to enter the hotel English teaching and the pre-learning and post-learning, which used in English class in colleges and universities, so that students have more opportunities to contact English. Combined with the situation in the hotel work, students can understand the application of hotel English more deeply. This article takes "Hotel English" teaching as an example, analyzes the applicability of micro-learning applied teaching courses in hotel English, conducts feedback research on the design and effect of practical processes, finds out problems and proposes suitable teaching methods for the course, in order to the purpose of teaching reform.

The core content of "micro class" is the classroom teaching video (lesson clip). Students are not easy to get tired and absorb the teaching content in the learning process. The content of the micro course includes the teaching design, material courseware and so on. According to the teaching theme and teaching thoughts, micro course can make "small environment" for learner. For the students of Higher Vocational Education, "micro class" learning time is not long and easy to master knowledge. Before class, students learn and preview the teaching content by watching videos and other ways on micro course. In class, teachers check the students' learning situation through interactive mode. It can arouse the students' memory, improve the students’ learning efficiency.

Hotel English in professional English of Higher Vocational Education is the core course of hotel management. Its main teaching objective is to cultivate students' practical ability of listening, speaking and translating in the hotel workplace environment, and train students' basic skills of hotel service. In the process of hotel English teaching, teachers must create a working environment atmosphere and pay attention to the three-dimensional training and practice of listening, speaking and translating based on the completion of hotel tasks. The application of micro class teaching mode provides a huge space and platform for English teaching, and provides students with more intuitive situational teaching.

1. The Connotation and Characteristics of Micro Course

Micro class is mainly presented by teaching video, and its content completely shows that the teacher is focusing on a key and difficult knowledge point. Micro class is actually a new teaching mode with characteristics different from the traditional classroom. It is not an abridged version of the traditional classroom, but a concentrated teaching mode after careful information-based teaching design and knowledge extraction. Good micro course teaching pays attention to the interaction of learning process, which has the characteristics of short time, fine content, small time and space constraints. It is a kind of structured digital resource that uses information technology to present fragmented learning content, process and extended materials.
There are 4 main features in micro course. Firstly, the teaching time is short. The duration of "micro class" is generally about 5-8 minutes, and the maximum should not exceed 10 minutes. Secondly, there are few teaching contents. In order to highlight the teaching of certain subject knowledge points (such as key points, difficulties and doubtful points) in classroom teaching, the contents of micro courses are general and prominent. Thirdly, easy to learn. Micro lessons can be freely learned on mobile phones and computers, and can make full use of crisp time for learning. There are various forms of communication of learning content, and it has strong communication between teachers and students. Finally, the feedback is timely and targeted. After micro class learning, teachers can evaluate and grade students' learning through the network platform.

2. Advantages of Flipped Classroom in Hotel English Teaching Under the Background of Micro Class Learning

2.1 To Construct the Basis of Learning and Improve Students' Interest in Learning

Students learn the designed words, phrases and grammar by watching the micro class video before class. Through the scenario preview and Simulation in the micro class, we can improve the interest of learning and enter the classroom with the basis and problems, which is not only conducive to the mastery of knowledge, but also conducive to the interaction between teachers and students in the classroom and improve the interest of classroom learning.

2.2 Flexible Learning Style and Effective Use of Learning Time

Micro courses can be learned on computers and mobile phones. For students in the information age, students can use their spare time to learn at any time. Hotel English is a very professional language subject, which requires students to remember professional words for a long time and immerse in a certain language environment for a long time. Micro class learning provides more and better opportunities for students.

2.3 Improve Teachers' Understanding of Students

Before class, teachers use the feedback on the micro class platform to have a certain understanding of students' existing learning ability and problems. To solve problems and improve the effectiveness of classroom teaching.

2.4 Guide the Imitation Dialogue After Class

In the hotel English Teaching of Higher Vocational Education, situational teaching is needed. The teacher helps the students to enter the situation which they made to practice English. Most of the time, the students can keep up with the teacher's pace in class and present what they have learned well. However, for most vocational college students, their English foundation is not good. After class, without the guidance of teachers, they have no learning habits and confidence, so it is easy to give up when the difficulty of completing the dialogue increases. Except for class time, they don't touch English at all other times. With the emergence of micro class, students can learn repeatedly and make dialogues with their classmates in a planned and targeted way under certain guidance, which improves the frequency and efficiency of students' using and learning English.

3. The Shortcomings of Flipped Classroom in Hotel English Teaching Under the Background of Micro Class Learning

With the expansion of Vocational College Students in recent years, the students' English levels are different, and the gap between students is very large. The flipped classroom under the background of micro class learning is of great help to the students with better foundation and strong learning
consciousness. But the learning effectiveness of students with poor foundation is relatively poor. If the teacher takes the process of students’ extracurricular micro learning as one of the important links in the whole teaching, it can only make the poor students worse and less confident. Some teaching management measures are needed to make the teaching more targeted and reflect the individualized teaching. In the hotel English teaching, the team learning and practice are more based on the learning group, and the consistency of the learning level of the group members is more conducive to the language understanding and continuous cooperation between them.

Teachers have limited technical level before and during the process of recording micro lessons. If they have strong skill in information software production, the micro lessons presented will be more attractive. What micro class delivers to students is not only teaching content, but also teaching method and teaching technology level. Most of the hotel English teachers have strong professional background, but they are lack of computer technology.

4. The Construction of Flipped Classroom in Hotel English Teaching Under the Background of Micro Class Learning

4.1 Teaching Students According to Their Learning Ability and Arranging Learning Tasks Reasonably

The English level of most students in Higher Vocational Colleges is different, and there is a big gap. In the process of recording micro lessons, teachers should think about this phenomenon. They’d better classify the teaching content according to the different levels, from the easy to the difficult, step by step. Due to the differences of students' cognitive basis, we should pay attention to teaching students in accordance with their learning abilities in flipped classroom teaching. At the beginning of school, teachers can use a week to observe students' ability feedback. According to different basic students, arrange different difficulty levels of pre-class tasks, after-class assessment standards. Using the same video, but assigning different tasks and teaching students according to their English level will help to build students' ability and self-confidence.

4.2 Improve the Application Level of Information Software

Although the production of micro class is completed with the help of professionals, a lot of work in the early stage is the preparation of teachers themselves. For example, hotel English teachers want to present a good teaching segment in a short time, including introduction, situational video, teaching and so on. How to link these things one by one, speak from the bottom to the bottom, let students want to see and learn, all need the assistance of technology and resources (audio, animation, image materials), and these are basic technologies. A good mastery is conducive to the presentation of the course. If a bad mastery is not good, the micro lessons recorded will not attract much attention.

4.3 Making Full Use of the Opportunity of School Enterprise Cooperation to Optimize the Curriculum

At present, micro courses are popular on many websites or some courses, but the real quality micro courses are relatively few, especially in hotel English. Hotel English is a kind of practical course, and it needs more direct environmental teaching, which can help students understand better that how to use English. However, the condition’s limited, it is more necessary to work hard in making micro class. Unlike most of the other courses, hotel English micro courses need more cooperation from the hotel in the process of production, which cannot be completed by ordinary teachers, especially need the support from the team and collective efforts, need the attention and support from the school and the hotel English teaching and research team, using the opportunities of school enterprise cooperation to find teaching resources, optimize teaching resources, optimize curriculum design. Finally, we can optimize the course and teaching by using the high-quality micro course in the flipped classroom.
4.4 Changing the Concept of Teachers and Create a Good Teaching Atmosphere

In the process of hotel English Teaching in Higher Vocational Colleges, most teachers feel that the students' foundation is too poor, so they spend more time on the explanation of basic words and simple sentences in the teaching process, and fail to use the teaching time effectively to teach students how to use English flexibly. Flipped classroom can help teachers to solve this problem to a certain extent, but also make teachers pay more attention and spend more time in the arrangement of teaching tasks, the design of teaching classroom and the arrangement of homework after teaching. To make full use of high-quality micro courses in the process of hotel English flipped teaching, English teachers need to change their own teaching concepts from the heart, improve their teaching skills, and implement them conscientiously. In addition, the whole school needs a good teaching environment, and also can promote the formation of a better teaching environment.

5. Conclusion

In hotel English teaching, flipped classroom has more obvious advantages than traditional teaching, and it is loved by more and more teachers and students. With the development of science and technology, computers and mobile phones are more and more popular (almost every student has them), and the cooperation of offline teaching is more conducive to classroom teaching. According to the survey, the application of micro courses has been put forward for many years, but the actual application is not much, and the effect is not very obvious. Using micro class in flipped classroom teaching of professional English in higher vocational colleges will be more conducive to expanding the frequency and efficiency of students' learning micro class, changing the traditional teaching concept of English teachers, improving students' autonomous learning ability and improving the level of English application.

References

[1] Wu Yan. Analysis of flipped classroom teaching design of College English based on micro course—Taking 2016 "teaching star" competition as an example [J]. Heilongjiang Education (theory and practice), 2017 (9): 66-67.

[2] Liang Liping. Design and practice of flipped classroom teaching of College English based on micro courses [J]. Journal of Donghua University of Technology (Social Science Edition), 2017, 36 (4): 361-364.

[3] Han Rui, Yin Yanlin. A study on the flipped classroom teaching mode of College English in the information age—Taking College English classroom as an example [J]. Journal of Qiqihar Normal University, 2017 (5): 136-137.