

# The Integration Study of Moral Education in College English Teaching in the Context of “New Liberal Arts”

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## ABSTRACT

“New liberal arts” should not only inherit traditional and classical culture, but also show the new changes arising from the cross integration of philosophy, social sciences and a new round of industrial and technological revolution. In the context of the “New Liberal Arts”, the key is to carry out the moral education among the college students. So in the teaching course of college teaching, the teaching plan not only should be involved in the acquisition of language skills and the learning of English culture, but also should attach its importance to the development of Chinese culture and its English expression. Meanwhile, the vocabulary concerned with Chinese culture should also be highly valued. It is necessary to learn Chinese culture carefully as well as the Western culture, to be good at telling Chinese stories well, and to promote the international transmission of the Chinese culture. This paper tries to: 1) analyze the characteristics of “new liberal arts”; 2) explore the importance of moral education among college students; 3) figure out the significance of integration of moral education; 4) explore the methods of integration of moral education in the context of “New Liberal Arts”.

**Keywords:** *New liberal arts, Moral education, College English teaching.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION: NEW LIBERAL ARTS AND COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING

The so-called “New Liberal Arts” refers to breaking down the traditional disciplinary barriers, promoting the deep integration of various liberal arts majors and the cross integration between liberal arts and science, industry, agriculture and medicine. The construction of new liberal arts takes inheritance and innovation, collaboration and sharing, crossover and integration as the main ways to promote multidisciplinary crossover and deep integration. The construction of new liberal arts requires reconsidering the orientation of foreign language talent training. Under the background of new liberal arts, the cultivation of foreign language talents should take moral cultivation as the strategic core and value orientation, educate and cultivate students' correct world outlook, outlook on life and values, and improve students' ideological and political literacy and moral quality.

The construction of new liberal arts requires higher foreign language education to undertake greater responsibilities: to actively serve the

national strategic development, and to "vigorously cultivate international talents with a global vision, who are familiar with international rules, proficient in foreign languages, and proficient in Sino-foreign negotiations and communication". College English is an important part of higher foreign language education. As a public compulsory course, college English should undertake the responsibility of improving students' English language application ability and cultivating their intercultural communication ability, critical thinking ability and comprehensive humanistic quality. The requirements of new liberal arts construction has pointed out the direction of and laid the theoretical foundation for college English curriculum reform. College English teaching should take courses as the carrier, integrating the improvement of comprehensive English ability with ideological and political education, cultivating foreign language talents with good ideological and moral qualities, socialist core values and the ability to tell Chinese stories well in English.

## **2. THE PROPOSAL AND CONNOTATION OF MORAL EDUCATION**

"Moral education" is a hot topic in the field of higher education curriculum reform in recent two years. It originated from the exploration of the talent cultivation through different courses in the ideological and political education (moral education) curriculum reform in Shanghai schools, advocating the curriculum goal of the "combination of knowledge input and value guidance", and integrating the ideological and political ideas into all aspects of curriculum teaching and reform, so as to achieve moral education. In June 2017, the Ministry of Education held an on-site promotion meeting of "Moral education" in Shanghai, affirming the exploration experience of "moral education" practice in Shanghai. In December 2017, the Ministry of Education issued the Implementation Outline of the Project to Improve the Quality of Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities, which clearly pointed out that it is necessary to vigorously promote the classroom teaching reform with the goal of "achieving the moral education".

"Moral education" is not a particular course or a particular kind of course, but a kind of educational and teaching idea. Its basic meaning is that all courses in universities have the dual functions of imparting knowledge and cultivating students' morality, bearing the role of cultivating students' outlook on the world, life and values. "Moral education" is also a way of thinking. Teachers should carry out moral education to students intentionally and effectively in the process of teaching. It is reflected in the top-level design of teaching that people's morality cultivation should be given the first place. The concept of "moral education" strengthens the ideological and political function of the curriculum, and facilitates the education of socialist core values through the whole teaching process.

## **3. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF INTEGRATING MORAL EDUCATION INTO COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING**

Higher education undertakes the mission of cultivating a large number of high-quality talents with both moral and ability. Morality is the key to education. College English courses, which are open to all non-foreign language majors, should play an

important role in carrying out the fundamental task of cultivating people by virtue. The following are the benefits of integrating moral education into college English teaching.

### ***3.1 It Is Conducive to Ideological and Political Education for Students***

"Moral education" is a kind of ideological and political education innovation and practice based on professional curriculum teaching. In college English teaching, the integration of parts of moral ideas is a bold practice to promote the ideological and political education of college students. It is an important way to enhance and improve students' ideological cognition state and professional learning attitude.

### ***3.2 It Is Conducive to the Inheritance of Traditional Culture***

Although English curriculum teaching belongs to the educational teaching work based on western culture, from a positive point of view, integrating the ideological and political education content based on traditional culture in English curriculum teaching is also beneficial to realize the goal of inheriting and spreading Chinese traditional culture. From the perspective of college English course teaching, with the comparative study of traditional culture and western culture, the learning content of English courses can also be enriched. It is very important for college students to learn, understand and spread the traditional Chinese culture.

### ***3.3 It Is Beneficial to Enrich the Content and Materials of Ideological And Political Education Courses***

"Moral education" is essentially to offer more channels and convenience to the implementation of the ideological and political education. Actually, the ideological and political education is always carried out through some theoretically ideological and political courses, which are very dull. Making full use of college English teaching as a good way to carry out the ideological and political education is conducive to enriching the materials of ideological and political education, and it is also an important way to stimulate the enthusiasm of students in English course learning.

### ***3.4 It Is Conducive to the Cross-cultural Communication Between China and the West***

Globally, the current English talents need not only the strong language learning and practising abilities, but also the ability to communicate cross-culturally. They need to know how to tell Chinese stories well. There are typical differences in the basic connotation and characteristics of different types of culture. Therefore, it is more necessary for modern higher education to take good ideological and political education as a good way to provide theoretical support for the cross-cultural communication between China and the West.

## **4. WAYS TO INTEGRATE MORAL EDUCATION INTO COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHING**

"Moral education" is the mission and responsibility of all college English teachers. How to integrate Moral education always plagues the English teachers. The following are the ways to integrate moral education into college English teaching.

### ***4.1 To Revise the Teaching Syllabus Suitable for the Moral Education***

The teaching syllabus is the guiding outline of teaching, which includes the course features, teaching purpose, teaching content, teaching means and methods, assessment and evaluation methods, involving all aspects of the course. Therefore, the integration of moral education in college English teaching requires the revision of the syllabus. Meanwhile, the teaching team should try to mine the implied ideological elements and cultural connotation in the teaching materials and integrate the course target, unit and class goal, teaching contents and evaluation methods with relevant language knowledge, to enhance students' listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating abilities and to promote students' moral quality, ideological and political literacy and cultural knowledge.

### ***4.2 To Determine the Teaching Contents of the Moral Education***

The teaching contents of moral education are the carrier of the ideological and political education. The teachers should study the textbook carefully and dig out the ideological and political elements and key points in the unit theme, vocabulary, text

and even in the exercise. For example, some key words in each text can be found in the English version of political documents and speeches of leaders. If some sentences used as examples are chosen from those materials, the novelty and timeliness can be increased, and the interest of students can be improved. At the same time, the goal of ideological and political education can be achieved, and language learning and ideological and political education can be naturally integrated.

Ideological and political teaching contents should keep pace with the times through dynamic construction. Teachers should grasp the hot political and social news and make use of Xinhua Net, China Daily and other platforms to improve the timeliness of ideological and political education content. The rich and novel ideological and political teaching content can ensure that the ideological and political education can truly promote moral education in English teaching.

### ***4.3 To Enrich the Classroom Teaching Forms of Moral Education***

The teaching form of moral education should not be simple and mechanized, but diversified and flexible. In general, online and offline, in-class and out-of-class teaching implementation strategies can be adopted. Offline classroom teaching is the main carrier of moral education. In class, teachers can flexibly use various multimedia means to present the teaching contents; besides, according to the actual situation of students and teaching contents, teachers should choose appropriate teaching methods, design reasonable classroom activities, constantly increase the challenges for students, improve students' learning initiative and enthusiasm, and maximize the internalization of ideological and political education content. Meanwhile, teachers can also make use of all kinds of network platforms, such as U campus, WE Learn, Cloud Class, FLTRP UMOOC, Chinese University MOOC as well as various English learning public accounts and apps to promote classroom teaching, creating a blended online and offline college English class involved with moral education.

The ideological and political education of college English curriculum should not only be rooted in the classroom, but also be extended to the "second classroom" after class. The school should organize a variety of activities, such as the debate with the core values of socialism and traditional Chinese culture as the theme, speech contest, translation contest, the English corner, different

lectures and so on to cultivate morality and ethics among college students and help them become the useful people for the society.

#### ***4.4 To Change the Evaluation Method of Course Teaching***

In order to better assess and evaluate the teaching effect of moral education in college English, it is necessary to construct a diversified assessment and evaluation system that includes both teachers and students. In the evaluation of teachers, multi-dimensional evaluation methods including department evaluation, supervision evaluation, peer evaluation, self-evaluation and student evaluation can be adopted to comprehensively examine teachers' moral quality, ideological and political literacy, "ideological and political" teaching methods and classroom effects. In the assessment and evaluation of students, both teachers and students can participate in the evaluation. Teachers can evaluate students' moral quality, ideological and political quality and cultural quality through students' classroom performance in the teaching process. Students can be evaluated by students themselves, students' mutual evaluation, students' group evaluation. Through evaluating themselves and others, students can realize their own strengths and weaknesses, and constantly improve their critical thinking ability and ideological and political quality.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

The construction of new liberal arts is driven by inheritance and innovation, cross and integration, coordination and sharing to promote multidisciplinary cross and deep fusion, the updating of traditional arts, and the shift from subject orientation to demand orientation, from professional segmentation to cross fusion. The integration of ideological and political ideas into college English teaching meets the needs of the construction of new liberal arts, and also makes foreign language teachers change their ideas in language teaching. To be frank, ideological and political education is not only the business of ideological and political teachers, but also the responsibility of all teachers. Only in this way can colleges and universities carry out ideological and political work throughout the whole process of teaching.

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