

# A Study on College English Teachers' Teaching Competence in Curriculum-Based Political and Virtuous Awareness

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## ABSTRACT

The curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness meets the needs of the current times, emphasizing the educational function of the specific curriculum. The curriculum of college English involves various aspects of life and particularly connects the different cultures between China and western countries, highlighting the importance and urgency of promoting English teachers' teaching competence in the teaching of college English in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness. Based on an analysis of the current situation of college English teachers' teaching competence in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness, this paper puts forward some suggestions on how to improve college English teachers' teaching competence in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness, with a view to providing some enlightening hints for the construction of ideological and political education in the new era.

**Keywords:** *College English teachers, Teaching competence, Curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness, Ideological and political education.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

It's well known that curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness is an important feature of higher education in the new era, for it runs through all disciplines in the present higher education of China, playing the dual roles of knowledge transferring and ideological and political education. In May 2020, the Ministry of Education issued an official document entitled *Guidelines for Curriculum-based Ideological and Political Education at Universities and Colleges*, stating that teachers are the key elements in the whole process of ideological and political education and it's vital to promote teachers' teaching competence in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness. [1] In college English teaching, whether or not teachers are highly equipped with qualified teaching competence in political and virtuous awareness is particularly important, which has a significant impact on the ideological and political construction of foreign language curriculum. It's true that college English, as a general major course, involves a wide range of aspects and takes students

a long time to study, which helps to equip students with the ability of international vision and cross-cultural communication, etc. Therefore, with a broad educational platform, college English teaching not only promotes students' personal development but also greatly favors the overall development of the country as well. [2] Naturally, it's easy to understand the great importance of cultivating college English teachers' teaching competence in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness. This paper intends to analyze the present situation of college English teachers' teaching competence in political and virtuous awareness and put forward some detailed suggestions with the aim of promoting the construction of ideological and political education of college English.

## **2. AN ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION OF COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHERS' TEACHING COMPETENCE IN POLITICAL AND VIRTUOUS AWARENESS**

Under the background of the new era, college English teaching in the curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness is a heatedly discussed topic. Gao Yulei and Zhang Zhiyi constructed the model of college English teachers' teaching competence in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness and classified it into five parts, namely, cultivation literacy, discipline knowledge, teaching literacy, academic research literacy and global competence. [3] Cultivation literacy is fundamental and interacts closely with other literacies, which usually covers teachers' willingness to know about the students, teachers' teaching morals and their curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness about how to cultivate students' socialist core values, stimulate students' cultural confidence and help them develop the lifelong study habit, etc. Discipline knowledge generally involves the systematic language knowledge and the ideological and political knowledge, cultural knowledge regarding China and western countries, cross-cultural communications knowledge, etc. Teaching literacy usually covers teachers' capability of designing, implementing, and evaluating the language teaching process and capabilities of test assessment and resource construction of ideological and political education in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness, etc. Academic research capability mainly indicates teacher's ability to carry out some theoretical and practical researches on ideological and political education and the ability to reflect and improve college English teaching in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness, etc. Teachers' global competence generally includes teachers' abilities, knowledge, emotions, attitudes and values in the face of opportunities and challenges made by the globalization and problem solving ability in the specific situations. [4]

Generally speaking, the present situation of college English teachers' teaching competence is satisfactory on the basis of an investigation conducted by Hu Pingping and Liu Wenjing, with cultivation literacy ranked highest, discipline knowledge, teaching literacy, global competence in the middle and academic research literacy ranked last respectively. [5] Yet, there still exist some

drawbacks in regards to teachers' teaching competence. The following is the detailed explanation of the present situation of college English teachers' teaching competence in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness.

### **2.1 Cultivation Literacy**

In fact, the curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness is a kind of new teaching concept and mindset. Therefore, no experiences and teaching patterns in the past could be modeled and learned. Presently, most of college English teachers could clearly realize the significance and purpose of college English teaching in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness, but some of them have weaker and insufficient theoretical understanding of College English curriculum from the point of political and virtuous awareness, sometimes leading to unsatisfactory classroom teaching in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness. The degree of curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness determines college English teachers' detailed teaching practice. [6] That's to say, the cultivation literacy of most college English teachers still needs to be enhanced further, and their theoretical level needs to be improved through the intensive theoretical study and systematic training.

### **2.2 Discipline Knowledge**

It's clear that college English serves as an effective platform to carry out ideological and political education since it covers various aspects of our daily life, posing higher demand for college English teachers to further study the systematic language knowledge in the new era and strengthen cross-cultural communication. Thus, the explicit teaching objective of language knowledge can be connected with the implicit teaching objective to help students shape the socialist core values and build strong cultural confidence in the practical teaching. However, influenced by the traditional teaching model, some college English teachers' classroom teaching still mainly focuses on language teaching, analyzing the word usage, sentence structures and text study, etc., and paying less attention to the ideological and political elements contained in the existing textbooks. Also, even some teachers themselves haven't accumulated enough knowledge about our traditional culture, incapable of purposeful comparing and contrasting the different cultures and transferring the cultural concept to the students in classroom teaching

effectively. So, it's urgent for college teachers to strengthen discipline knowledge by studying systematically related language knowledge and comprehensively extracting the ideological and political elements in carrying out purposeful classroom teaching and acquiring various culture and cross-cultural communication knowledge.

### **2.3 Teaching Literacy**

Since the global world has entered the era of internet in the 21st century, college students have much easier access to the variety of information timely, including kinds of language resources. It appears that the traditional classroom teaching model can not meet the learning needs of students and college English teaching in the new era needs to be carried out both online and offline to extend the teaching effect of the traditional classroom teaching. In short, constantly improving the teaching methods and approaches of ideological and political construction of the courses is a must. Nevertheless, some teachers carry out college English teaching integrated with ideological and political elements in a rigid and single way, simply transferring the political and virtuous elements mechanically, sometimes resulting in the failure of integrating ideological and political elements into classroom teaching effectively. [7] Thus, students feel bored sometimes and pay little attention to the classroom English learning. Therefore, it's necessary to enhance college English teachers' teaching literacy systematically and scientifically in the new era, so that students can establish a correct outlook on life and values in the process of learning language.

### **2.4 Global Competence**

In terms of the features of English study, it's good to be blended with the cultivation of students' global competence. For instance, the various thinking modes, diverse cultures and life habits in different places can be learned in the process of language study to help students to learn some related knowledge so that they can compete and cooperate with others in the global world and build the shared community. Above all, teachers are the prerequisite in the cultivating process of students' global competence and teachers' global competence is regarded as an inseparable part of teachers' professional development. However, under the guidance of examination-oriented teaching aim, some college English teachers overemphasize students' language study and examination

performance, paying less attention to develop their global competence. With the fast development of China, our country is playing more and more important role in the international community. How to promote teachers' global competence and cultivate students' global competence is the issue that college English teachers have to face in the new era.

### **2.5 Academic Research Literacy**

College English is treated as a general major course at most universities and many college English teachers usually shoulder the heavy teaching burden, so it's common to find that some of them lack of strong research motivation and less devoted to the related researches, sometimes leading to the separation between academic researches and teaching and a considerable lack of research experience among college English teachers. Thus, due to the heavy teaching burden and weak academic research awareness as well, the close connection between the ideological and political education of the curriculum and academic research is far from being satisfied among the college English teachers, making it difficult for them to achieve the mutual benefit between practical teaching and academic research. Therefore, it's really vital for college English teachers to fully recognize the importance of academic research and completely utilize its advantages during the whole process of teaching.

## **3. SUGGESTIONS ON IMPROVING TEACHERS' TEACHING COMPETENCE IN CURRICULUM-BASED POLITICAL AND VIRTUOUS AWARENESS**

Teachers are the main force of carrying out the detailed college English teaching in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness and their teaching competence influences the effectiveness of College English curriculum greatly. Therefore, in view of the current situation of the ideological and political education in college English, it's necessary to strengthen college English teachers' teaching competence in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness comprehensively.

First of all, it's necessary to strengthen college English teachers' cultivation literacy, promoting teachers' ideological and political theoretical learning and completely understanding the essence of ideological and political education, etc. For

example, they need to enrich their theoretical level by specific lectures, theoretical training and literature reading, such as actively learning disciplinary and interdisciplinary theoretical knowledge. Also, some teaching theories concerning foreign language education, second language acquisition theories are favorable as well.

Secondly, it's vital to instruct teachers to accumulate and update their discipline knowledge with the help of related literature, video introduction, lectures and websites, etc. to effectively combine knowledge, culture and thought together. In details, college English teachers need to constantly acquire the systematic language study, have better command of Chinese traditional culture, and pay close attention to the current affairs just happened and the current development of the whole society, so that they can really integrate the political and virtuous elements into the detailed practical teaching. Additionally, more teaching resources obtained from new media, such as Chinadaily and CGTN are supposed to facilitate the ideological and political education. Accordingly, it's advisable for teachers to study constantly by themselves and teach students some selected topics in class.

Thirdly, it's urgent to improve teachers' teaching literacy, promoting their teaching methods of passing on the political and virtuous knowledge to students artistically. In the practical teaching, the ideological and political elements in the textbooks should be extracted from various angles and applied respectively in the process of pre-class, in-class and after-class teaching, making good use of online teaching resources to serve the teaching of college English. Hence, both online and offline teaching platform should be flexibly utilized to deepen college English teaching in political and virtuous awareness. For example, the design and implementation in the period of pre-class and after-class teaching could be carried out with the help of new media, such as QQ, WeChat platform, English study websites and MOOC, with which some warming-up and review activities related to the text could be finished online. In details, some latest news or traditional cultural introduction related to the text study can be applied with the help of new media to arouse students' attention and interest before or after class. As for the implementation of classroom teaching, the extracted political and virtuous elements contained in the text should be integrated with the text study scientifically. After class, it's also important to evaluate the whole process of teaching and improve accordingly. In

short, the design, implementation and evaluation of college English teaching in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness should be carried out in the whole process of class teaching both online and offline in the new era.

Fourthly, it's crucial to enhance teachers' global competence, which is the prerequisite for them to cultivate students to be competitive talents in the global world. First of all, teachers should change their teaching concept subjectively and strive to acquire global competence thoroughly, expanding their international vision and strengthening the knowledge accumulation in accordance with the development of current times. Secondly, the detailed college English teaching in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness needs further exploration on the basis of global competence with the help of team members' cooperation, such as optimizing the overall curriculum design and constructing the full application of curriculum resources. More importantly, the detailed requirements of global competence for teachers should be clarified directly, described clearly and some in-service training concerning the global education should be carried out. [8] All in all, helping college students cultivate global competence to be able to participate in the global exchanges and competition is one of college English teachers' teaching tasks in the current times.

Last but not the least, it's urgent to promote teachers' academic research ability since the improvement of academic research capability can also improve teaching effectiveness greatly. This process is actually the process of integrating teachers' teaching practice and academic research. After all, it's an inevitable trend for college English teachers to improve their academic research ability of the professional development in the new era. College English teachers should change their existing concept, independently set their own development goals and organically combine their practical teaching and research together to achieve sustainable professional development. To summarize, in theory, they can attend some academic lectures and professional training seminars to catch up with the latest theoretical development of their research, continuously read some related literatures to update and enrich their academic theory to direct their practical teaching and make good preparation for academic researches. In practice, they can take their teaching practice as a chance to analyze, reflect and evaluate the teaching process repeatedly, gradually achieving the integration of teaching practice and academic

research and ultimately promoting the common development of teachers' teaching and academic research.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The ideological and political construction of college English is a complex and systematic project that runs through every aspect of college English teaching and one of the key parts is the constant promotion of college English teachers' teaching competence in curriculum-based political and virtuous awareness. College English teachers should pay close attention to the development trend of college English teaching, change their teaching ideas timely and take on the improvement of their teaching competence as their core task, constantly contributing to the successful construction of ideological and political education in line with the needs of our country's higher education. It's expected that more and more college students could turn to be qualified socialist builders and excellent talents with the help of college English study.

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