

# Reflections on the Present Situation and Countermeasures of College English Teaching

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**Abstract:** After decades of English teaching and research, college English teachers in China have made great progress in teaching content and methods, but there are still many areas to be improved. For example, exam-oriented education still has a profound impact on efficient English teaching in China, which limits teachers' teaching thinking. At the same time, the phenomenon of not paying attention to context teaching and practical application teaching in English teaching leads to students' high scores but low abilities and poor comprehensive English ability and application ability. According to the current situation of English teaching in colleges and universities, this paper takes some risks and puts forward some countermeasures to improve it.

**Keywords:** College English; Teaching status quo; Countermeasures

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## 1. Preface

Current college English teaching to undertake the guide students to learn English well, make the burden of students solid English foundation. In 1978, officially opened the English teaching in colleges of our country, during 1985-1999, college English teaching is gradually standardized, four, six levels of tests, the hierarchical teaching concepts such as been clearly put forward, and widely used. During the period from 1999 to 2002, the English teaching in Chinese colleges and universities has been adjusted again, paying more attention to the cultivation of students' English reading, dictation and translation abilities. Since 2003, new changes have taken place in college English teaching in China, and rapid development has been achieved. For example, our teaching hardware and software facilities have become more perfect, and college students' English level has been improved year by year. Therefore, the achievements of English teaching in China are worthy of affirmation. However, with the increasing internationalization of China, higher requirements are put forward for English talents. Therefore, the efficient English teaching model still cannot meet the needs of talent cultivation and needs to be further improved.

## 2. The characteristics of effective English teaching

At present, English teaching in our country more and more attention, not only from the kindergarten, primary school and so on has opened English teaching, the society is also full of large and small English training institutions. English teaching in colleges and universities is fundamentally different from teaching in the lower age group and teaching in social institutions. It realizes the transition from general English learning to professional English learning, and begins to move from basic English learning to professional English learning. There are two main teaching objectives in college English teaching: to cultivate practical communicative talents and theoretical research-oriented talents.

English theory-oriented talents should have a detailed and comprehensive study of English. They should not only study the English subject itself, but also conduct in-depth study and research on the culture, history and customs related to English subject. Practical English communicative talents should have a good command of practical English communicative ability, be able to communicate with others on the content of their major and related affairs, and be able to read and write documents related to their major. Generally speaking, English teachers will be more attention to cultivate English professional theory research talents, rather than the English majors of English teachers are more pay attention to cultivate practical communication type talented person, from the current demand for the development of our country, we need both English theory research talent English practical ability to communicate, to expand its development space; Practical and communicative English talents are also required to have certain theoretical knowledge of English and understand the customs and cultures of other countries in order to avoid violating the taboos of the other side in the process of communication and causing tension in interpersonal relations.

Due to the trend of China's increasingly international development, we have a new demand for talents' English ability. College English majors and non-English majors must choose English courses to improve their comprehensive English ability and application ability. In general, English discipline has a strong application, so teachers need to pay attention to the cultivation of students' practical English application ability in the teaching work.

### **3. The problems existing in college English teaching**

#### **3.1 Teachers are still influenced by exam-oriented education**

In a very long period of time, the method of exam-oriented education has been adopted in China. Because the assessment standards of students' English proficiency are generally judged by the test results, teachers will focus on improving students' exam ability when carrying out teaching. Under the influence of teachers' teaching and assessment methods, students will take improving their English test scores and passing the CET-4 and CET-6 exams as their goal in daily learning, and pay attention to the study and memory of theoretical knowledge while neglecting the exercise of practical English ability. At the same time, college students' learning task is heavier, and the time and energy is limited, can't spend all of time on English learning, so English practice learning time is a large amount of compression, some universities don't even carry out English teaching practice, the progress and development of the English teaching in colleges and universities, and the cultivation of English comprehensive applied talents will be unfavourable.

#### **3.2 Lack of language environment teaching**

English is a language subject, so in the teaching process of the language environment is very high requirements, but most of our country's university teachers in the teaching process, all ignore the creation of the language environment. In the process of learning English, the students do not feel a good contextual atmosphere, so the language sense is poor, the English communication ability is ordinary, the oral expression ability is insufficient, the English practice communication ability is not strong. Because the dialects used in different regions of China are different, but there is no English communication community, so Chinese people do not have a good English communication environment, less able to use English in daily communication.

### **4. The effective way to improve the effectiveness of college English teaching**

#### **4.1 Improve teaching ideas and enhance teacher-student interaction**

The essence of education is an interactive activity. Teachers and students communicate and exchange knowledge through interaction. Through teaching activities, teachers can impart their knowledge, experience, practice and other abilities to students, and students can enrich their knowledge reserve, enhance their thinking ability and improve their practical ability. The traditional exam-oriented education concept has certain influence on college English teachers, lead to their relatively backward education thought, too much attention to improve students' English teaching, in order to students as soon as possible to pass the test band 4 and band 6 certificates, but the education thought is relatively short, cet certificate is important for students, But the more important thing is to help students improve their comprehensive ability to use English, so that they can master enough practical English ability to solve future work and life related problems. In order to achieve this goal, teachers should pay attention to the increase of English practice teaching curriculum in the teaching process, students only through practice and exercise their level can be improved.

#### **4.2 The assessment of practical English ability is added in the assessment link**

English, as a common language, plays a pivotal role in an informationized and internationalized modern society. The contents and methods of teaching evaluation will affect the implementation of teaching work, and most teachers will carry out specific teaching work guided by teaching evaluation. For example, in the past, colleges and universities often judged students' English proficiency and teachers' teaching achievements through English test scores. Then, teachers would, for this purpose, emphasize theoretical teaching while compress practical teaching in English teaching. Therefore, the administrators of colleges and universities should properly increase the content of English practical application ability in the English assessment link. For example, the method of dealing with practical problems in situational English mode is adopted to carry out the examination. The examiners can set the examination questions according to the problems existing in real English communication cases, and give the evaluation according to the performance of students and the processing results. In this way, teachers will take this as their guide and increase the part of practical teaching in English teaching. It is worth mentioning that in practical English teaching, teachers should not only teach students relevant skills, but also impart some culture and etiquette of western countries, so as to improve students' comprehensive English literacy.

### **5. Conclusion**

From the point of the actual development of the our country, higher requirements for English talents of practical application ability of current college English teaching model has been difficult to meet the needs of personnel training, so the teachers should improve teaching ideas, enrich teaching content and method, starting from the multi-dimensional, cultivate the students' English comprehensive application ability.

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