

Original Research Article

Report on Research Results of the Effective Teaching Model of Senior English Reading in Minority Areas under the New Curriculum Standard

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Abstract: Effectiveness has been one of the major problems that perplexed teachers in teaching senior English reading. There is still much work to be done to improve the effectiveness of teaching English reading and to increase the enthusiasm of students and teachers based on the characteristics of minority areas. Under the new curriculum standard, teachers in minority areas should teach students in accordance with their aptitude, stimulate students' enthusiasm in learning English, and make English classes interesting and attracting for students.

Keywords: Senior School English; Reading; Effectiveness; Ethnic Minorities

1. Introduction

The best teacher is interests. Teachers need to stimulate students' learning motivation in teaching English reading in senior high schools, and students will therefore have learning courage as well as positive attitudes in terms of studying English. In minority areas, teachers should focus on the teaching method of improving students' reading level under the new curriculum standard. In this case, the author has carried out this research.

2. Raising the research subject

In 2001, a new round of basic education curriculum reform was widely carried out in China. *Outline of the Basic Education Curriculum Reform* (trial version), written by Qiquan Zhong, elaborated the concept and connotation of effective teaching and related teaching strategies, and discussed the origin and future development of effective teaching. This book has defined the concept of "effectiveness" and "teaching" under the effective teaching respectively, and put forward the modern teaching concept. Students' lifelong development and improvement of knowledge and skills were also emphasized. It's necessary to pay attention to teaching effectiveness, teaching quality as well as the improvement of teachers' teaching ability and professional development. Teaching reality and school's conditions are also considered as important factors to explore more effective teaching methods^[1].

With the further development of the new curriculum, the goal of high school English teaching is gradually "geared to the needs of modernization, the world and the future of students". Therefore, schools should focus on the core literacy of a subject and students' lifelong learning ability in the process of effective teaching. Schools should also advocate students' physical and mental health and all-round development, follow the principles of leading learning methods and autonomous learning, and encourage diversified senior English teaching modes^[2].

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Education resources are relatively fewer especially in minority areas. When it comes to English reading learning, high school students in minority areas often have weak foundations in English, lack confidence in learning English reading and are even afraid of it. Students also haven't developed a good habit of English learning and reading, and thus lack interest in the English study^[3]. They can learn more knowledge of culture, science and technology, geography and history and even more about their own national culture in English learning. Therefore, the effective teaching mode of reading teaching is worthy of exploration and research by senior high school English teachers in minority areas^[4].

In addition, there are some problems in the teaching strategies of senior high school English teachers in minority areas. At the same time, the national emotional factors in the textbooks and extracurricular reading texts have not been effectively explored. There is still a gap between teaching quality of senior high school English in minority areas and that in more economically developed areas in China^[5].

3. Process and methods of problem solving

3.1 The problem-solving process

3.1.1 Preparation phase (2013.10-2013.12)

(1) To read the relevant literature on the new curriculum reform, senior high school English reading teaching, core literacy of English, effective teaching mode, consult the relevant domestic and foreign theoretical knowledge of second language teaching, and learn about the current situation of senior high school English reading teaching in minority areas, and then collect data and prepare the project declaration.

(2) To formulate a plan for the research project and carry out the division of personnel and clarify the overall research direction of the subject as well as the research focus of each stage.

(3) To give lectures on the research project and invite experts and leaders to review and optimize the research plan.

(4) To submit the opening report.

3.1.2 Practice phase (2014.1-2015.9)

(1) To carry out the specific tasks of subject research, such as conducting questionnaire survey; to investigate and analyze the English reading foundation, interest and ability of senior high school students in minority areas; to summarize and analyze the main English reading teaching methods of senior high school English teachers through classroom observation and interview surveys.

(2) To conduct classroom teaching observation and make evaluations regularly, and discuss the teaching methods; to hold discussions regularly to explore solutions to problems found in teaching.

(3) To write periodic reports and check periodic results; to accumulate research materials, summarize the periodic results, and complete the interim research report.

(4) To write cases and papers and present excellent lesson examples, excellent teaching designs and excellent papers.

3.1.3 Summary phase (2015.7-2015.10)

(1) To write the research report and the conclusive report.

(2) To accept the final assessment and appraisal of the subject appraisal team.

(3) To compile materials of subject experiment and experience, outstanding lesson examples, excellent teaching designs and fabulous papers.

3.2 Major research methods

3.2.1 Literature research method

This method is to study relevant theories at home and abroad, which includes related theories and cases of the new curriculum reform, senior high school English, reading teaching, and so on, and lay a solid theoretical foundation for this subject. At the same time, research subjects in the similar research direction can be investigated to be used as reference material.

3.2.2 Case study method and self-reflection method

This method is to observe and understand students in senior high school of minority areas in the aspects of reading interest, student's learning attitude, learning habit both in and after school, as well as their English learning ability. Teachers need to analyze the effect of teaching based on these aspects.

3.2.3 Survey method

This method is to investigate students' learning foundation, ability, interest and approach through methodologies like questionnaires, interviews and classroom observation to know about their learning problems and major reading teaching modes adopted by senior high school English teachers. This method is also to investigate the English teaching facilities and the national culture in minority areas.

4. Major research results

(1) The influence of English language sense ability on reading teaching. For senior high school students, language sense ability is a necessity for them to master and use language knowledge. The stronger the language sense ability is, the better their understanding ability is, and the more quickly they grasp the key points of the text^[6]. In minority areas, although students are generally weak in English, they are hardworking in memorizing English words and mastering English grammar. Therefore, in the subject research, we have focused on improving students' language sense ability and achieved good results in using teaching strategies.

(2) The influence of teachers capacity. English teachers in minority areas are often inferior in teaching ability to those in more economically developed areas. The former often lack modern teaching ideas and effective reading teaching methods. In particular, they often neglect the importance of cultural knowledge and national emotions in English reading teaching. Therefore, in the subject research, we have made every effort to change the role of teachers and optimized teaching methods to make teachers more professional, so that the subject research has achieved more solid teaching results.

(3) The influence of learning motivation. In minority areas, many senior high school students know that English reading is very important, but they lack interest. Therefore, in this subject research, great attention was paid to how to stimulate their learning motivation. Finally, these students' interest in English, their autonomous learning ability in English reading and their ability of independent use have markedly increased or strengthened.

English teachers adopt different methods in analyzing reading text. In reading teaching, methods to explain words and grammar used by some teachers may be totally different from others. Some teachers explain new words and grammar in detail, while others don't. However, these two teaching models are too traditional, and have not produced good teaching results. Besides, some teachers just roughly explain the new words, and let students do the relevant exercises of listening and speaking. Although such a teaching method can effectively combine listening, speaking and reading in English teaching, it is not in line with the foundation of most senior high school students in minority areas. As a result, it is difficult for students to improve their English reading performance^[7].

5. Comparison and analysis of results before and after research project

From the perspective of theoretical results, the status before and after research project has been analyzed. The research group has studied the relevant literature from 2001 to 2007, and summarized the general situation of effective teaching research in China as follows.

(1) With the further development of the new curriculum reform, more and more research on effective teaching in China has been carried out, and the popularization of "new thinking" in teaching has been promoted to a certain extent through the study of teaching theories and practice, leading the curriculum reform of basic education to a new stage of development.

(2) There are many descriptions of features and meanings of "effective teaching" in China, as well as the emphasis on teachers' growth and teaching behavior.

(3) Many research papers focused on the definition of "effective teaching", theoretical foundation research, concrete methods and internal mechanism, evaluation system research and so on.

After completing the research, the research group has begun to popularize the research results to help improve the senior high school English reading teaching modes in minority areas. Senior high school students' reading learning has greatly improved after the implementation of the research results. More importantly, students begin to focus not only on new words and grammar, but also on exploring information behind the text, such as the emotion, values, cultural knowledge, *etc.* All of these results show that the research has effectively impacted traditional English reading teaching modes, and led the senior high school students in minority areas to master modern ways of learning, and effectively enhanced their autonomous and independent learning ability.

6. Reflections on the research results

The ultimate goal of the exploration into the effective reading teaching model in accordance with the new curriculum standard of senior high school English is to improve students' self-learning ability and comprehensive language use ability, which is part of their core literacy. Senior high school students in minority areas can reduce the gap in English reading learning between them and students in more economically developed areas. At the same time, we must make students understand that learning English reading is not only for the final test results, but also for the long-term English learning. Besides, we must help them to cultivate cross-culture awareness by learning their own ethnic culture and other cultures by way of effective reading. In minority areas, we need to pay attention to the role of young teachers and get them involved in the research team in order to promote the modern development of the effective teaching mode of English reading.

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