The Application of Corpus Linguistics in English Education

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Abstract: The corpus is favored by English educators at home and abroad because of its system, real and rich language resources. Business English is a special-purpose language and an interdisciplinary course in applied linguistics. The knowledge of business English curriculum has a strong professional and interdisciplinary nature. Business English vocabulary, reading, writing and translation cannot be separated from the real context and professional business knowledge. Therefore, the data-driven learning based on the corpus can play a very important role in the optimization of business English teaching mode.

Keywords: Corpus; Business English; Data-driven learning; Teaching mode

Introduction

Traditional English teaching pays attention to language teaching, and mainly relies on teachers’ explanation to impart knowledge. Therefore, teachers are the main body of teaching, and the teaching activities are carried out with teachers as the center. And the new teaching requirements teachers should pay attention to cultivate students’ language skills, and to the advanced computer technology and developed network fusion into the new teaching mode and means, using “multimedia teaching, classroom teaching as auxiliary” mode, and then realize students independent learning, personalized learning, also completed the identity of the teacher to the teaching designer.

1. Development of the Corpus and Its Application to English Teaching

“The corpus is a large electronic library with certain capacity that collecting natural continuous language using text or discourse fragments according to certain linguistic principles and using random sampling.” The corpus is a linguistic research method. For decades, the corpus has experienced rapid development from the first generation of Brown to the fourth generation now. The corpus is favored by English educators at home and abroad because of its system, authenticity and rich language materials[1].

2. The Practical Application of the Corpus in Business English Teaching

Business English is an interdisciplinary applied linguistics course, the course knowledge involves foreign linguistics, economics, management, etc., so it has a strong professional and interdisciplinary nature. Business English vocabulary, reading, writing and translation are inseparable from the real context and professional business knowledge, so this paper will explore the application teaching mode of the corpus from these four perspectives.

2.1 Application of Corpus in Business English Word Teaching

The characteristic of Business English vocabulary is professional, written, many abbreviations and new words, such as ad valorem duty, ad., terminate, cyber-payment, so students still face problems unable to fully understand and master the use even with their learned vocabulary. The use of the corpus can help the students with solid language skills and cultivate the students’ practical ability to use the language.

The corpus can be discussed in three dimensions in business English vocabulary teaching. First, word frequency. A large amount of language material is stored in the corpus, and word frequency statistics helps to summarize the most frequently used, productive and core words in the language. High-frequency words are the most valuable vocabulary that students should master, which is the key content of vocabulary teaching. Second, word collocation. By retrieving the corpus, students can learn about the most common combinations of a word, such as “launch a new product”. Third, context. Context, specifically, is a real statement. Real statements in the corpus can effectively present the application rules of vocabulary, such as the example sentence “Some of the components are now sourced in Hong Kong.”, which helps students to firmly remember the meaning and usage of the word “source” in the business context. In addition, through retrieval, students can also further learn the use of the near-meaning words of this word, and understand their differences in usage and context, so as to achieve the learning effect of word discrimination, and consolidate the vocabulary foundation of students[2].

2.2 Application of Corpus in Business English Reading Teaching

Business English readings in the corpus usually include topics like corporate, economic, industrial, market, policy and outlook, mostly actual financial press releases. Business English reading teaching is also divided into three dimensions. First, the main idea. Use the retrieval software to search for the original text of the reading material, and use the tool to generate the word frequency table
and the keyword table. Then, by observing the keywords, the students can understand the carelessness and theme of the story, and learn the details through the cluster retrieval. The teaching process of this dimension, the key is the problem setting and the cluster setting. Second, chapter. Students grasp the chapter structure of the reading material by searching the conjunctive and to understand the semantic relationships that and refers to in the story, such as quotes, examples, additions, and layer advances. Third, text. The greatest advantage of corpus-assisted reading is that readers can quickly master the main content and text features of the chapter. It can be seen that the application of corpus can greatly improve students’ independent learning initiative, but also be convenient and flexible. The reading text is also based on real and extensive domestic and foreign financial news, which is more practical and instructive and can help students improve their reading level.

2.3 Application of the Corpus in Business English Translation Teaching

Translation theory is a systematic description of the transformation rules of bilingual in language and culture according to their own understanding, experience and attitude, covering the following eight aspects: duration and timing; standard and external position; communication and significance; communication and acceptance; subject and object; methods and countermeasures; products and processes; thoughts and actions. The theory of translation is an exploration of the artistic and scientific laws of translation, used to guide translation practice. Translators need to dynamically use translation theory, adopt diversified translation countermeasures, and translate different texts, so as to achieve the purpose of interlanguage communication.

More ones used in business English translation teaching are bilingual parallel corpus, that is, the two texts in the corpus are translated to each other, containing relatively rich bilingual translation samples. Learners can search a corpus of translation, find a variety of references, so as to more accurately and truly translate chapters, can allow learners to learn the real context expression of business English in translation, so as to improve the translation level. At the same time, translation learners can also observe the language structure characteristics of the original text and translation materials, summarize practical translation skills, and then improve their translation ability. It can be seen that the real and rich language materials of the corpus to translation teaching, is much more helpful for the translation learners to actively master the translation theory, can make the translation learners better switch between bilingual and different cultures, with its translation thought to guide the translation action, but also can make its translation action to keep up with the translation thought.

2.4 Application of Corpus in Business English Writing Teaching

Business writing ability is the core ability of students’ cross-cultural communication, and it is also one of the most important skills necessary for students’ employment. Business English writing reflects strong application and practice due to its special purpose, which usually includes memos, messages, notices, mail, or business letters and business reports, each form also has a fixed format and language. In the process of using the corpus to teach business English writing, students can search and learn words, sentence types and examples through the corpus, analyze the formats and frameworks of different applied styles, and improve students’ ability of writing in each style by imitating real scene writing examples. Teachers can correct and evaluate students’ exercises, summarize the frequency and type of language mistakes in students’ exercises, and give an objective and comprehensive evaluation, so as to better guide students’ business writing.

3. Summary

Corpus applied in business English teaching optimization of teaching mode played a very important role, can contribute mainly to students, teachers supplemented by the new learning mode, the development of students ‘independent learning initiative, and can stimulate students’ practical ability and brain thinking, also because it has rich and perfect real teaching resources and highlight its advantages, truly practical, let students in the real business context grasp more vocabulary use and improve reading, writing, translation and other comprehensive language use ability. However, this teaching mode also puts forward high requirements and challenges for both teachers and students. In order to achieve the ideal teaching effect, teachers and students need to actively participate and cooperate highly cooperate.

References:


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