

# An Analysis of Ways to Improve Students' English Application Ability in College English Translation Teaching

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**Abstract**: The English teaching model in today's college should adapt to the trend of the times and attach importance to college English translation teaching to improve students' English application ability, allow students to participate more fully in the classroom, and accelerate the training process of English application ability. Based on the analysis and research on the problems existing in English translation teaching in colleges and universities, this article explores the implementation ways to improve college students' English application ability.

Keywords: College English; Translation Teaching; Application Ability; College Students

## 1. An overview of translation teaching theory

Regarding English translation teaching, researchers in this field have also studied translation theories, ecological translation theory, functional equivalence translation theory, etc., which are all ideal translation teaching theories.

From the perspective of ecological translation, the translator's "adaptation" and "selection" are a kind of instinct in translation. Ecological translation emphasizes the harmony of the translation ecological environment and the translator's adaptation and selection process. Based on this, carrying out English translation activities is a translation phenomenon that meets the current needs of English talents.

In English language expression, there are many translation methods. The basic purpose of applying functional equivalence theory to metaphor translation in English is better to break through language and culture barriers and accurately convey the information of the original English to China. In terms of the functional equivalent application of Chinese to English metaphor translation, it can be summarized as the translation of Chinese metaphors with the same reference image with functional equivalents, or the translation of Chinese metaphors with different reference images of functional equivalent. Chinese similes can be used functionally equivalent to express the connotation of the original text, and even free translation methods can be used to achieve the image expression of English.

From the perspective of relevant translation teaching theories, these translation theories are based on the best interaction and conversion methods of the two languages and cultures, which are in line with the accurate understanding and grasp of the relevant language readers of the translation to achieve the ideal goal of translation.

## 2. Current problems in college English translation teaching

## 2.1 Insufficient attention to translation in the process of college English teaching

For the traditional college English teaching model, it pays more attention to the teaching of theoretical knowledge, neglecting the cultivation of English translation and application ability. It only provides students the basic knowledge needed and ignores the cultivation of students' English application ability. In recent years, some colleges and universities have set the goal of strengthening the comprehensive ability of students, especially in the aspect of English appli-

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cation ability. However, students' English translation ability has always been in a weak state, and the development of English translation teaching has also been greatly hindered. It is difficult for students to rationally apply the knowledge they have learned, resulting in sufficient reserves of knowledge without due application abilities.

## 2.2 Students' thinking in English translation has limitations

English belongs to the humanities subject of language. This nature determines that in the process of English teaching, it is necessary to carry out teaching work on a profound cultural basis. There is a big difference between China and the western culture, and there are big differences on the cultural level. In the process of learning English, students will inevitably encounter a long time solidified thinking and different cultural backgrounds that make it difficult for them to understand knowledge. In the process of English translation, the awareness of internationalization is extremely important. Therefore, they should think about problems from an international perspective, diverge and expand thinking, make the translation results more accurate and carry out the translation work smoothly. However, the current situation is that there are obvious loopholes in the education of undergraduate colleges and universities, and they have not been able to form a good connection with the international cultural trend. During the process of learning English, students sometimes have difficulties in understanding articles and cannot use many translation methods, which has greatly restricted students' English translation ability and English application ability.

## 2.3 The backwardness of the traditional English translation teaching model

At present, the teaching mode adopted by most colleges and universities is still in accordance with the traditional teaching standards, focusing more on instilling knowledge and theory, on the standardization and unification of answers, and ignoring student participation in the classroom, which makes the entire college English teaching process more mechanized, very rigid, and without innovative factors. Such teaching mode cannot give full play to the creativity of students, and ignores the communication between teachers and students. It makes students to passively accept learning, and cannot fully actively cultivate their English translation ability, resulting in students' poor English translation application ability. At the same time, the existing teaching models of undergraduate colleges and universities mostly adopt the form of large-scale courses, and the knowledge level of students varies greatly. In this case, it is difficult for teachers to conduct reasonable teaching interactions for each student. This makes the communication in the whole teaching process less effective in translation teaching, lacking effective targeting.

## 3. Strategies to be adopted to improve students' English application level

#### 3.1 Strengthen the importance of English translation teaching within universities

English is a language subject, and teaching tasks need to be carried out on a cultural carrier. In view of the insufficient attention paid to English translation teaching within colleges and universities, it is necessary to change the perspective of higher education on English subjects. The main purpose of the development of higher education is to cultivate students' comprehensive ability. The development of English teaching is to a large extent to cultivate students' comprehensive application ability of English, especially listening and speaking. This can also provide students with great competitiveness in future work and life to meet the needs of China's social and economic development for talents. In the process of English teaching in colleges and universities, attention should be paid to translation training and practical teaching to promote students' understanding and mastery of English culture. For non-English majors, teachers should also strengthen training in translation, minimize the instillation of theoretical knowledge, promote students to participate in the classroom, and promote the development of English teaching through practical translation.

#### 3.2 Guide students to develop English translation thinking

For English, a linguistic subject, not only a rich cultural knowledge is needed as a foundation, but also a professional thinking mode should be cultivated. In the process of English translation, students must learn to change their thinking about problems from an international perspective, and carry out the process of English translation, instead of translating based on the unique cultural background and thinking mode of china and then getting a Chinese translation result. For example, there is a sentence pattern in English metaphor expression, "It's a blue Sunday and he doesn't want to go out at home." If it translates directly, the result will be "今天是个蓝色星期天,他待在家一点不想出门。" Because the

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translator doesn't understand the meaning of "Blue Sunday" but simply thinks that the weather is good and the sky is blue, which will contradict the original meaning of the sentence. Therefore, in the process of English translation, the principle of functional equivalence should be considered. It is important to switch thinking in translation and understand the difference between English sentence expression and Chinese semantic expression to allow Chinese readers to better understand the sentence. In the translation, the "blue Sunday" should be rendered as a "糟糕的星期天", considering the connotation of "blue", which can make the rendering be straightforward and clear.

In addition, the cultivation of English translation thinking can better enable students to diversify their thinking mode and learn more knowledge, so that they can adapt to the entire international society faster and better in the future. It also helps students lay a solid foundation to enter the future workplace.

## 3.3 Strengthen international exchanges and keep up with international cultural trends

Different cultural backgrounds create different languages and cultures, and the same things in different language environments may have different connotations. To do a good job in English-Chinese translation, it is necessary to master the language and cultural background of both parties in order to better grasp the different connotations of languages. For example, in English sentence expressions, there is "They are birds of the same color." If it is translated directly, it will be like "他们是有着同样颜色的鸟。" This translation is obviously wrong, in fact this sentence has a rhetorical device in the English language-metaphors. The "birds" here does not really refer to any kind of bird. In fact, this sentence has a more appropriate idiom in Chinese——"一丘之貉". The expression of this sentence actually means that certain people with the same characteristics are gathered together. It's like gathering things together that people grouping together. The emphasis is on this feature rather than the meaning of specific words. Therefore, in translation, it is important to grasp the cultural background.

The talents cultivated by universities in the future should have extremely distinctive characteristics, can better adapt to the international wave, and can also show their own brilliance in the international society. Colleges and universities should make good use of their own resource advantages to allow students to participate in international internal exchange activities, learn various advanced foreign knowledge, realize the advantages of foreign culture, and make improvements in combination with their characteristics.

## 4. Conclusion

English, a language subject, is widely used in society, and the translation is the most practical skill in its subject. The current higher education should pay more attention to the cultivation of practical ability in line with the trend of social development, and the teaching process of translation ability in the classroom to cultivate students' English application ability and improve the efficiency of teachers. It is necessary to actively carry out the exploratory work of college English translation classroom teaching and construct a teaching model suitable for Chinese college students in order to improve students' English level and promote the cultivation of their English application ability.

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