College English Teaching – A New Way to Improve the Science and Engineering Students’ Humanistic Quality

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Abstract: College English teaching is the most-hour and longest-lasting public foundation course, and its text materials include various fields of knowledge. Therefore, combining the education of the science and engineering students’ humanistic quality into the college English teaching is a good and beneficial trial.

Keywords: College English teaching, science and engineering students, humanistic quality, compound talents

1. Introduction

From the general sense, each member in the society must have a certain humanistic quality. It is more essential to enhance college students’ quality of education in the humanities on the base of the historical mission that they should bear. And the severe humanities quality shortcomings of the current science and engineering students bring the urgency of this issue more prominent.

2. The Current Situation and Features of the Science and Engineering Students’ Humanistic Quality

Rudenstine, the honorary president of Harvard University, pointed out: “The scarcest resource on the earth is the intellectual resources educated through the humanities and trained in innovational abilities.” Therefore, training and cultivating a large number of compound talents, who master modern science and high technology and management expertise as well as have a good quality of the humanities, should be the 21st century fundamental task of China's higher education. In a long time, the implementation of China’s higher education is professional education. The phenomenon is particularly prominent in science and engineering institutions, paying too much attention to the quality of undergraduate business education but neglecting the education of cultural quality. Some science and engineering students know more book knowledge but less social life common science, more professional knowledge but less the truth and doing things, strong logical thinking ability but poor thinking in terms of image. Some students have higher technical design ability, but lack of the ability to write a simple coherent experiment report, or a comprehensive scientific research papers. This is a serious constraint to the healthy growth and all-round development of talents.

At the same time, in our country, because of the impact of the former Soviet Union model of education, higher education one-sidedly emphasizes to train “high-level talent”. This concept of the educational system and educational training bring the science and engineering students the shortcomings as followings:

2.1 The Poorer Cultural Qualities

The college students (including Master, Doctorate), in particular, the science and engineering students have very little access to the education of humanities and the knowledge of the excellent traditional Chinese culture, not to mention the world's outstanding culture. They only have chance to participate in some group activities after-school time. Therefore, many college students have no chance to touch the knowledge of humanities and get the education about the cultural heritage and the world excellent culture. At last, their whole cultural qualities become lower. Many science and engineering students even have not achieved an appropriate level in literature and art training, language skills,
writing ability when they finish the college education.

2.2 The lower Social Adaptability
   Nowadays, many science and engineering students have spent their almost total time and energy studying the science and technical knowledge; they have not enough information and understanding of social history, practical life and association between people. Some science and engineering students even develop the lonely personality, weak psychology and lower self-control ability; some don’t know how to communicate to others.

2.3 The Vague Humanistic Value and Indifferent Law Awareness
   Many students are absorbed in technical and science theoretical studying; do not pay attention to ethical and moral cultivation and cultural qualities of self-cultivation. They poorly perform in basic civilized qualities such as honesty, trustworthiness, conscientiousness and diligence, modesty, tidiness, and so on. They have not time and energy to study law, they do not know or understand law, and therefore they become indifferent to the rule of law. College students’ illegal and criminal cases continue to rise.

3. The Relationship between the College English Teaching and the Humanistic Quality of the Science and Engineering Students

3.1 The Connotation of the College English Teaching
   “College English Teaching Requirements” has urgently required improving the teaching model of the college English subject; it is an important part of the English disciplines building. The college English teaching goal is to train students their comprehensive application capability in English, while improving their ability to learn independently and to increase the overall culture, in order to adapt themselves to China's social development and international exchange needs.

   College English teaching materials are closely around the college English teaching goal, the scope of its content is very wide and various, from astronomy to geography, from the aged to the current, from domestic to foreign, all-inclusive. To learn English can make learners understand English language itself, but also can make them to get all aspects of knowledge in history, literature, politics, law, art, philosophy, religion, morality and so on. Students should take English as a media, through which they can learn the foreign culture, literature, philosophy, religion and other aspects of knowledge, and gradually cultivate their integrated cultural qualities, improve their quality of the humanities and humanistic spirit.

3.2 The Advantages of College English Teaching in Training Science and Engineering Students’ Humanistic Qualities
   First, the college English teaching is the most-hour (each semester from 70 to 80 hours) and the longest-lasting (lasting the first two years, four semesters) public foundation course. Second, the college English teaching involves every non-English student, unmatched in other types of courses (even to the Master, doctoral students who also have to learn English). Third, the general English teaching text books include various elements required by the education of humanistic quality. a. The content is new and rich. A lot of materials are about the past 10 years. b. Arts and science are inclusive. In the past, the text books published by Fudan are partial arts, while published by Shanghai Jiaotong University science and engineering side. Most of the recent textbooks have taken into account of both sides. To enable students to study in the today's world latest developments in science and arts, college students can explore their vision and enhance their qualities of science and technology and humanities. c. Facing life and being relevant. A notable characteristic in the near future text books is that it attaches great importance to the guiding significance of teaching the students for their future work and life.

3.3 Modern Educational Tools and Equipment are used to Promote the Humanistic Quality Developed
English teaching resources, modern teaching facilities, and network resources can encourage students to study and conduct online discussions, and the website of the Department of Foreign Languages can open up some columns. All this can make college students easily touch famous aphorisms, extolling the truth, the rich spiritual world, outlook on life and the world, and implementing the humanistic spirit, and cultivate the soul and cultivate aesthetic taste, a lofty ideological and moral character and values.

3.4 The College English Teachers Is the Core of Training the Science and Engineering Students’ Humanistic Quality

First, English teachers can bring the interest to the students in college English. Training students’ English language interest is not an easy thing, not a moving story or an enlightenment of the wisdom can be done. It requires teachers to gradually discover the deeper meaning of the text materials, and express to students vividly, let them feel the beauties of English, influenced by English culture. This is a very flexible but very necessary work, with no fixed rules and standards; its actual implementation is entirely in the hands of teachers. The key is to inspire the emotion and sympathy from students, to enable students to always be in the spiritual impact and baptism. Second, teachers play the leading role. English teachers should pay much and careful attention to tapping all matters of life and experience in the glamour, inspiration and wisdom, and contact appropriate materials into teaching. Third, the teachers should have a very high quality: good insight ability, strong thinking ability, excellent expressing ability. The English teachers’ humanistic quality has strongly influenced on their students. Fourth, English teachers should be the good models. In their daily teaching activities, college English teachers always use the language lab, the multimedia classes, internet and computer; this has set an example of compound talent for science and engineering students.

3.5 The Wash-back of the Education of Humanistic Quality to College English Teaching

Combining the college English teaching to the humanistic quality education also can bring a good wash-back: First, in the implementation of humanities education, students will expand the knowledge, enhance language learning fun, avoid monotonous skills training; the college English teaching become substantive in content of teaching, diverse in format, so that it not only focuses on teaching English language skills and transferring knowledge, but on cultivating the potential capacity and innovational capability, even pushes students reach higher levels of human wisdom and spiritual realm. Second, it promotes college English teaching to reform from simply reforming the mode of teaching to fully exploring the nature of humanities, even to achieve the perfect combination between functions and humanism in science and engineering English teaching.

4. Conclusion

Properly combining the college English teaching into the education of the humanistic quality can develop science and engineering students’ knowledge and their independent feeling and the abilities of discovering and thinking, enhancing their practical ability and innovating spirit. It is very useful and essential to cultivate talents. The students develop their humanistic quality while getting knowledge, and the high humanistic quality can turn back to improve their study attitude and enthusiasm. At the end, a good circle can be created. Once developing this good circle, students will gradually become perfect in culture, social adaptability, cultural values, the law awareness, and moral values and so on. Science and engineering students will become the compound talents with good quality of the humanities, and needed by the whole society.

References


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