

Thinking on the Application of English Learning App in the Study of College English Major

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Abstract: Mobile and computers have become an indispensable part of modern people's life and study, and the changing learning lifestyles are also refreshing. For example, English learning apps have many influences on college English majors' studying English. This article is going to study the help and troubles brought by various learning APP to college English majors in English learning in the self-media era, so that students can dig deeper into the functions of the apps while understanding the learning apps.

1. Introduction

The society is changing all the time, and with it there are changes in the way people live and learn. Taking college students' learning as an example, the previous learning methods all relied on the explanations of English teachers and various paper books, but now they are different. With the popularization of mobile phones and the Internet, college students' learning methods have undergone earth-shaking changes, and this change is ultimately brought about by various apps. The emergence of new things must have its roots, and it will eventually replace old things and occupy the current stage of history. It must conform to the development trend of the times. Therefore, adaptability is an instinct that every student must possess, because only in this way can students keep up with the pace of the times and benefit their academic performance ^[1]. One thing to note is that when facing new things, everyone must calm their minds, analyse the pros and cons, and “take the essence and discard the dross to the greatest extent.”

2. Comparison between Traditional Learning Methods and New Learning Methods

Traditional English learning methods are well known and have many shortcomings, such as troublesome data query and small quantity, but the new learning methods just make up for these. The new learning method is called mobile learning by many people. This new learning method mainly relies on various mobile and computer apps. Among them, the mobile phone has become one of the necessities of college students' campus life with the continuous development of society, changing all aspects of college students' study and life, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English learning. As we all know, English learning vocabulary is the key and foundation. If you want to make progress in your English performance, you must accumulate your vocabulary continuously. With the rapid increase of vocabulary, your English performance will inevitably be improved ^[2]. However, traditional learning methods have many shortcomings in the accumulation

of vocabulary. For example, traditional learning methods are tedious, time-consuming, and low in efficiency, which are not conducive to the stimulation of students' learning enthusiasm and the cultivation of learning interest. The new learning method is different. Its advantages in English learning are obvious-flexible, scientific, and efficient. These advantages continue to attract students to learn, and stimulate their interest and initiative in learning English.

3. Introduction and Advantages Analysis of Various Commonly Used English Learning Apps under the New Learning Mode

When using a new thing, the first thing to do is to understand it. The understanding here is not only to understand its advantages, but also its disadvantages, because only by thoroughly understanding its advantages and disadvantages can it truly be brought into play the original functions and special effects, English learning APPs are just like that. First, let's take a look at the specific advantages of English learning apps.

The so-called APP is actually a kind of application, such as “Scallop Words” and “Baicizhan”, “English Fluent Speaking” and “Youdao” commonly used by students, among which “Scallop Word” and “Baicizhan” are memories word APP; “English Fluent Speaking” APP is an APP for students to practice listening and speaking in English studying; “Youdao” APP is a good helper for students to translate between English and Chinese... Based on the frequent use of these APPs by students, accept Based on these kinds of apps, we will briefly introduce English learning apps.

Many people know Ebbinghaus's curve memory method. He believes that when people remember something, they need to repeat the memory to remember them completely. The two words “Scallop Word” and “Baicizhan” APP fits the characteristics of Ebbinghaus curve memory method. These two apps divide the words in the vocabulary into memorized, unremembered, new words, etc. according to the learner's memory, reminding learners of the memory of the words, thereby prompting learners to repeatedly remember what they have not remembered. Living words allow learners to memorize in a targeted manner, which greatly improves learners' learning efficiency^[3]. This is the help of learning apps for learning English vocabulary.

APPs such as “Scallop Words”, “Baicizhan”, and “Youdao” are also of great help in English “listening”. These three learning apps can not only help learners look up words, but also provide the pronunciation of words, so that learners can know the accurate pronunciation of words while memorizing words. This completely breaks the traditional English learning that can only be learned through vision. The shackles improve the efficiency and enthusiasm of learners in learning English.

“English Fluent Speaking” is an English learning app that helps English learners master the “speaking” function in English learning. The APP mainly allows learners to practice spoken English through follow-up and other methods, and quickly master the ability to “speak”, so that learners' English learning is no longer dumb learning.

Although the focus of each APP or the way to help people is different, for example, “Baicizhan” mainly uses graphics to let English learners master words in lively and interesting animations and illustrations; “Scallop Words” It is flash card back words, that is, the page has only words, definitions, pronunciations and example sentences. It is very concise and allows learners to learn English in a relaxed environment^[4]. But no matter which way it is, these learning apps are of great help to English learners, especially college English majors, whose learning volume is very large, and they urgently need to find fast and effective learning methods to improve their learning efficiency and learning quality, so the emergence of mobile learning methods is like a traveler in the desert seeing water, how can they not be excited.

4. Problems in the Application of English Learning Apps

But nothing can be perfect, and English learning apps are also the same, so every learner still needs to keep a clear mind, while using the app, distinguish and find the problem in time to avoid falling into the trap.

4.1 The Cost is Too High

Mobile phones and computers are all products of the Internet era. Their operation requires the support of the Internet, that is, the network. According to the current form, this is a very expensive expenditure^[5]. First of all, the price of mobile phones with better performance is not low, which is undoubtedly a problem for college students whose living expenses are completely supported by their parents. Secondly, the operation of mobile phones and computers requires a network. Even though the issue of “network charges” is still a problem for many people today, such as data traffic, although China Mobile, Telecom, and China Unicom are launching some preferential packages, 4G network charges are still very high, not to mention the coming 5G era. Although there is free WiFi, the range and quantity are too small, and more are still used for encrypted charges. In this way, these apps that need to use the Internet to be opened can only be “stopped”. Even if the network fee is not a problem, the network environment in many public places is not good, such as university libraries. Many college students should often encounter network freezes and abnormal page logins. The poor status of these networks has greatly affected the enthusiasm and learning effect of students. Finally, many apps are not completely free to use, and many apps need to be paid to continue to use them in the later period. This has caused many students to reluctantly give up their love and “give up halfway”. In summary, high-cost learning apps are not suitable for every student.

4.2 Data Quality Issues

As far as “Kingsoft PowerWord” and “Youdao” are concerned, the correctness of the above information is also very worrying. The most common problem is translation errors, such as incorrect conjunctions. College English majors should be very clear that the “and” in “a knife and fork” in English idioms does not need to be translated, but “Kingsoft PowerWord” does, for example: Can I have a knife and fork? A good translation is “Wokeyiyaoyifudaochama”? But Kingsoft PowerWord translates as “Wokeyiyouyifudaochama”? This is obviously a low-level error^[6]. In addition, it is a word translation error, taking the word Yiyishenghui as an example, Youdao’s translation is ‘In the sun yi yi is unripe bioghtness’. This is obviously the direct transliteration of Chinese words, which cannot reflect the meaning of Chinese idioms. Correct translation should be ‘In the sun shine’. Therefore, when using an English learning APP to learn English, it still needs to be distinguished, because what it shows itself may also be wrong, which actually has great disadvantages for students' learning.

4.3 Decline of Students' Autonomous Learning Ability

The convenient advantages of English learning APPs, such as complete information and fast speed, have attracted the attention of many students, allowing students to quickly obtain information related to a certain knowledge point of English through various APPs, but at the same time they also promote students' characteristics of laziness^[7]. For example, after the teacher assigns homework, many students will directly use English learning apps to quickly search for relevant answers without using their own brains. Another example is the accumulation of knowledge points. When the teacher writes key knowledge points on the blackboard or displays them through multimedia, students do not quickly excerpt, but a simple use of the mobile phone camera function, which is nothing wrong in itself, but the terrible thing is that the many conveniences allow students

to blindly use mobile phones, completely “free their hands”, and ignore the review after class and the importance and the advice of “It’s better to write by hand after a thousand times”.

It can be seen that the application of English learning APP needs to be cautious, because if applied improperly, students may lose their ability to learn and explore, which is not conducive to the long-term sustainable development of students.

5. Discussion

While English learning APP have many advantages in college English majors, their existing problems cannot be ignored. Therefore, if we want English learning apps to serve college English learning, students need to understand its advantages and disadvantages, and finally find a learning method that suits them.

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