

On the Application of English and American Literature in College English Teaching

Rui Luo^{1,2}

¹College of Foreign Languages, Zhoukou Normal University, Zhoukou, 466000, Henan, China

²School of Foreign Studies, Guangxi University for Nationalities, Nanning, 530006, Guangxi, China

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Abstract: With the more and more frequent exchanges between countries, English subject has become a compulsory subject in various universities. As an important means of college English teaching, British and American literature has been valued by various schools. The integration of English and American literature in college English teaching can not only improve students' reading ability, but also promote students' English proficiency. By studying the significance of British and American literature in college English teaching, and analyzing the current situation of the use of British and American literature in college English teaching, it is proposed that teachers should choose the bibliography of British and American literature in a reasonable way, integrate English and American literature into English teaching in the second classroom, and follow the "people-oriented". The teaching philosophy and other measures will eventually promote the application of British and American literature in college English teaching.

1. Introduction

In College English classroom, the integration of British and American literature teaching is a more advocated teaching method. English and American Literature carries the culture and ethnic customs of English-speaking countries, and it allows students to understand the original English culture and language expressions. Integrating British & American literature into college English teaching not only promotes the innovation of teachers' teaching methods, but also promotes the improvement of students' English proficiency.

2. The Significance of British and American Literature in College English Teaching

2.1 To Improve Students' Interest in Learning

Integrating English and American literature into English teaching is conducive to increasing students' interest in learning. At present, English teaching in universities has a very important test purpose no matter in the form of classroom or in the selection of teaching materials. The teaching content is boring and tasteless, resulting in the students' lack of enthusiasm for learning. By integrating English and American literature into college English teaching, students can feel the

original English culture and language environment. In addition, the storyline of British and American literary works is ups and downs, which has a strong attraction for students, which is conducive to increasing students' interest in learning English.

2.2 To Promote English Teaching Advancing with the Times

The development of economy and society has made all walks of life more and more demanding on the comprehensive quality of talents, especially the requirement for English. It has not only required the ability to take English exams, but also attached more attention to the comprehensive development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.^[1] British and American literary works are all painstaking efforts of British and American writing masters, and have extremely high appreciation value. Introducing British and American literature into college English teaching can make students fully realize the charm of English language, thereby promoting the improvement of their own listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, and promoting the development of college English teaching with the times.

3. The Current Status of the Use of British and American Literature in College English Teaching

3.1 The Status Quo of College Curriculum

Although colleges and universities seem to integrate English and American literature courses into college English teaching on the surface, they have not achieved substantial results. On the one hand, some colleges and universities only set the English and American literature courses as elective subjects, and as online courses for students to study by themselves. Some students have made the study of English and American literature only in the form of lack of consciousness or insufficient attention, and have not achieved practical results.^[2] On the other hand, colleges and universities do not have a sound assessment system for English and American literature courses. Some college English and American literature course examinations only evaluate the core knowledge points of English words and sentences, while ignoring the appreciation of literary works. This makes the students' English level only stay in the mastery of words and grammar, without really improving their literary literacy.

3.2 Outdated Teachers' Teaching Concepts

Teachers are the guides for students to learn, and play an important role when students use English and American literature to improve their English. However, teachers currently have the following problems in the teaching of English and American literature courses. On the one hand, teachers' teaching methods are still based on the traditional teaching model. Teachers take themselves as the center, only mechanically instilling knowledge into students, and explaining the grammar and words, but rarely interact with students, and do not understand students' learning status; on the other hand, in the process of introducing English and American literature into English teaching, teachers simply repeat the content of literary works, and do not analyze the work from the perspective of language and culture, resulting in students' lack of appreciation of the work.

3.3 The Students' Enthusiasm for Learning is Not High

At present, the integration of British and American literature into the practice of college English teaching has not achieved the desired effect. A large part of the reason lies in that students' interest

in learning is not high. On the one hand, because colleges and universities set English and American literature as an elective course, students think a little of this course from their hearts, and they do not have an in-depth understanding of the course content, which leads to students' low enthusiasm and difficulty to achieve the ideal teaching effect. On the other hand, the free learning environment has made some college students less vigilant about learning, and has emerged from truancy and playing with mobile phones in class. In the long run, it has formed a gap with other classmates, and it has also become a tiresome phenomenon.

4. Measures of British and American Literature in College English Teaching

4.1 Teachers Should Reasonably Choose the Bibliography of British and American Literature

Although the integration of English and American literature into college English teaching plays an important role in the promotion of students' English learning and the improvement of English proficiency, teachers should also select the appropriate British and American literature bibliography and age to integrate English teaching according to the students' knowledge level, interests and hobbies. For one thing, teachers should choose a bibliography that suits students' interests. For example, now that students like romanticism and works with more love elements, teachers can choose literary works such as *Gone with the Wind* to sing love for students to read, thereby arousing their interest in learning. For another, teachers should choose English and American literature bibliographies of moderate difficulty, so that students can gradually improve their English. Each student's level and acceptance of knowledge are different. Teachers should choose according to the actual situation of students. They should firstly choose works that are easy to read, and then gradually increase the difficulty of reading. You can't choose something similar to *Beowulf* at the beginning, so as not to cause students to get bored.

4.2 To Combine English and American Literature into English Teaching in Combination with the Second Classroom

The second classroom refers to the activities of educating students outside the classroom. Integrating English and American literature into the students' second classroom can also facilitate the students' English proficiency. First of all, the school can organize related activities, such as English and American literature reading competition, English and American literature reading exchange and other activities, to provide students with a platform for English learning, so that students can feel the charm of English culture. Secondly, teachers can arrange homework reading of English and American literature after class, let students choose their favorite literature works in the dorm as a unit to rehearse the textbook play, and then show it to other students. This can not only promote students' learning of English professional knowledge, but also exercise students' imagination and performance, and promote students' all-round development. Finally, students should choose their favorite English and American literature to read in their spare time, and have time to write English reading notes to communicate with their peers, which not only exercise their English writing ability but also promote their literary literacy.

4.3 To Follow the Teaching Concept of “People-Oriented”

The application of the “people-oriented” teaching concept to college English teaching is student-oriented. Students are the main body of English teaching, and the integration of English and American literature into college English teaching should also follow this philosophy, and set up diverse teaching objectives from the perspective of students. On the one hand, teachers need to

change the traditional self-led teaching model, and really go deep into students and lead students to study English and American literary works in the classroom. While requiring students to master the usage of words and sentences in the works, they also require students to read aloud the wonderful passages in the works and study together with the students, thereby promoting the improvement of the students' oral English. On the other hand, the “people-oriented” teaching concept also requires teachers to pay attention to the improvement of students' comprehensive quality. Teachers should pay attention to students' English professional knowledge while improving students' literary literacy.^[3] Literary literacy is also a part of college English teaching. Teachers should guide students to learn to appreciate British and American literary works, improve students' appreciation, and thus promoting the improvement of students' comprehensive quality.

5. Conclusion

In summary, college English teaching is not only for students to learn how to test, but also to have strong language application ability to cope with the cruel competition in society. British and American literature has the dual function of improving students' professional knowledge and literary literacy, which plays an important role in students' English learning. Therefore, colleges and English teachers must recognize the importance of British and American literature, introduce British and American literature into college English teaching, and attach importance to the role of British and American literature courses in college English teaching, thereby promoting the development of college English teaching and students' English proficiency.

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