

# *The Training Path of "Whole Person Education" for New Liberal Arts, Foreign Languages and English Majors - Taking the English News Compilation Course as an Example*

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**Abstract:** Under the background of the construction of new liberal arts, English majors should seize the opportunity of development, and then take the initiative to seek change, as well as establishing a view on the construction of English majors. Taking the English News Compilation Course as an example, based on the different attributes of foreign languages, the paper illustrates that English majors in colleges and universities need to combine their own reality and the needs of the country and society, also seek sustainable connotative development of English majors, then establish the concept of Significant Foreign Languages, together with carrying out the connotative form, professional orientation and talent cultivation of English majors, and further develop the liberal arts education function of English majors. What's more, they should cultivate modern foreign language talents with family and country feelings and international vision.

## 1. Preface

The new liberal arts would be one of the components of the new discipline development strategy of national higher education, and would be a systematic concept, standards and implementation system. And the connotation of the new liberal arts is mainly reflected in two aspects. Firstly, based on the existing liberal arts majors, it gives new content to the cultivation of professionals in liberal arts. Then the second one is to achieve a new breakthrough in the cultivation mode of liberal arts talent, and to realize a greater range of professional cross-disciplinary recognition or structural reconstruction of the basic concept, target orientation, organizational form, and curriculum system of the cultivation of talent. In China's English education circle, Professor Li Xiaojun of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, known as the "leader of English whole-person education", guided the focus of foreign language teaching from the teaching of language knowledge to the cultivation of abilities of language communication through the practical innovation of Communicative English for Chinese Learners (CECL), and then poured attention into the overall development of language learners [1]. At present, the philosophy of whole person development in foreign language education is undoubtedly forward-looking and leading, and provides useful theoretical and practical guidance for the current humanities and English education to break through the dilemma.

It is well known that English majors are characterized by a wide range of personnel training

because of their humanistic attributes and characteristics of education. And English majors are not language schools that only provide simple training of skills, but majors that provide a humanistic knowledge structure with diffuse characteristics. This cross-cultural knowledge system of the humanities can help improve students' "transferable ability" and enhance global competence.

## **2. Reform of English Major of New Liberal Arts**

The primary issue attached to the academic community is the "humanity" of English majors, and the discussion is centered around the new National Standards. Some scholars believe that English majors are an integral part of humanities and social science education in colleges and universities, and should cultivate talents with high humanistic quality. In addition, some experts believe that the "humanistic" direction of GB is good, but English majors should put down their airs. The orientation of English majors in the new era is to cultivate English for Special Purposes (ESP) composite talents. Specialization and contextualization are the ways to solve the main contradiction of foreign language education in China's colleges and universities in the new era. The result of the dispute is that English majors have finally returned to "humanism" [2].

Secondly, what kind of abilities and accomplishments should English majors cultivate? For foreign language majors, the core quality is to speak and write in a foreign language, to speak and write in the foreign language of the major, to train students to speak and speak in a foreign language, and to engage in daily expository writing or academic writing, which will become the unique quality and core competitiveness of English majors. At the same time, English majors must cultivate talents to meet national strategic development and social needs. The basic knowledge of a certain major that foreign language graduates may engage in after taking up their jobs. The reality is that only a few specialized foreign language colleges and top universities in China can focus on the former and consider both. Most English majors are faced with the problem of whether graduates can find employment smoothly, that is, practicability. However, in terms of talent training objectives, curriculum design, and teaching practice, these schools follow the old path of language skills+humanities, which results in students not having an advantage in humanities and practical aspects.

Thirdly, the challenge of the construction of new liberal arts to the development of English majors is interdisciplinary. The innovation of the new liberal arts is to break through the thinking mode of the traditional liberal arts and promote the cross and deep integration of multiple disciplines through inheritance and innovation, cross and integration, collaboration, and sharing [3]. The proposal of the "double first-class" construction and development strategy has injected a strong shot into the reform of English majors, and the new liberal arts would have drawn a clear development blueprint. Continuously improve the quality of the curriculum and the overall quality of the teaching staff, and move towards the direction of interdisciplinary and integration. And the talents of English majors and construction are leaping together.

## **3. The Training Path of "Whole Person Education" for New Liberal Arts, Major Foreign Languages and English Majors - Taking the English News Compilation Course as an Example**

### **3.1. Taking the Top-Level Design as the Guide, And Using the New Liberal Arts to Strengthen "Cultural Soft Power"**

Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and the bright prospect of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is in front of us. At such a special historical juncture, the international situation is still unpredictable, and there is still a risk that the ideology and culture will be assimilated. Therefore, taking the soft power of Chinese culture as an important content, it is

particularly important to do a good job in top-level design.

Foremost, the construction of the English News Compilation Course must be firmly rooted in the fertile soil of Chinese culture, take China's actual problems as the starting point, focus on the overall needs of the characteristics of the new era for the development and innovation of the humanities and social sciences, and use Chinese voice, Chinese wisdom, and China's position to solve the most urgent theoretical and practical problems in China at present [4]. Secondly, it must follow the leadership of Marxism, always adhere to the concept of a big country, shoulder the mission of a big country, and play a unique Chinese value in the "one-belt--belt-one road". Finally, the construction of the English News Compilation Course must "face the world, participate in the world and influence the world". Taking Chinese culture as the fulcrum and flame, we will initiate, exchanges, dialogues, sharing, and symbiosis of world cultures, truly realize the combination of Chinese culture and Western culture, strengthen the cultural confidence of Chinese people and the interaction and communication of world civilizations, form new liberal arts with a global perspective and Chinese style, and connect "community of human destiny" with cultural ties [5], as shown in Figure 1-4.

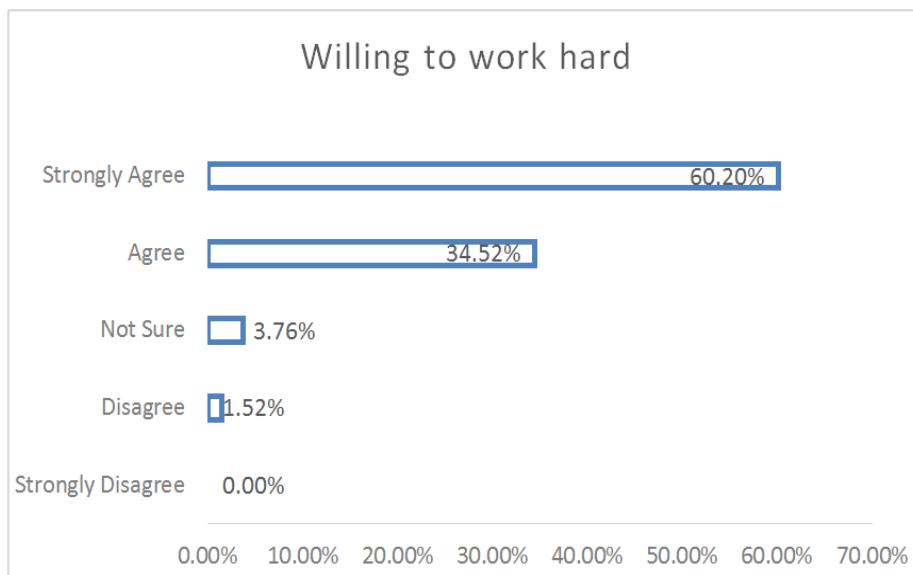


Figure 1: The Percentage of Students Who Think They Are Willing To Work Hard

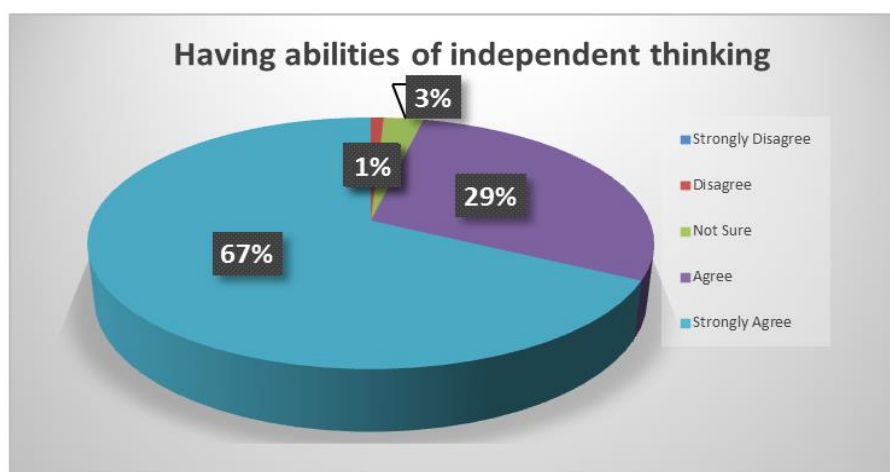


Figure 2: The Percentage of Students Who Think They Have Abilities of Independent Thinking

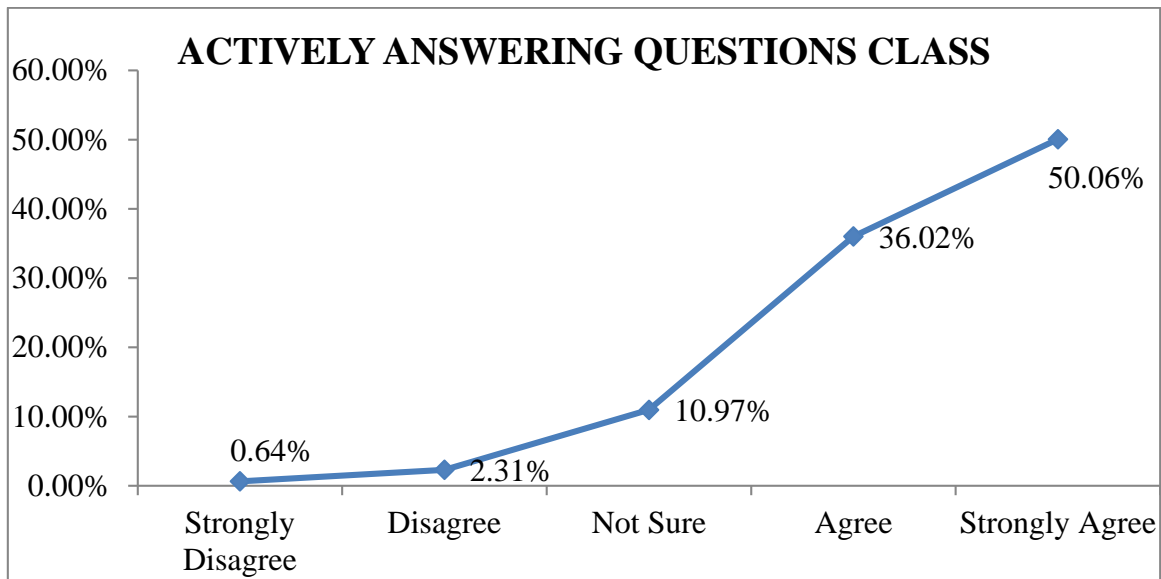


Figure 3: The Percentage of Students Who Think They Answer Questions Actively

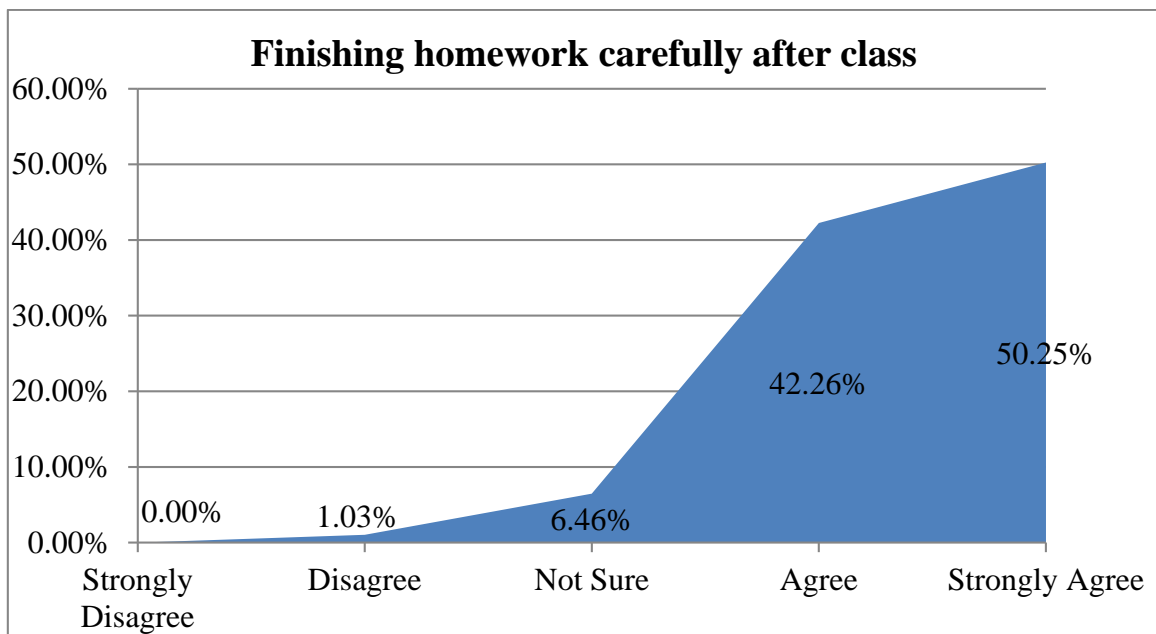


Figure 4: The Percentage of Students Who Think They Finish Homework Carefully

### 3.2. Building a Practical System of Teaching to Enhance the Effectiveness of New Liberal Arts Education

In order to meet the new round of the industrial revolution, seize the new opportunities and challenges of the development of higher education, and change a series of problems such as the long history of liberal arts education, divorced from the actual needs of society, and the rigid specifications of talent training, the construction should build a practical system of teaching, and enhance the effectiveness of the new liberal arts education [6]. Under the background that the traditional liberal arts education has been unable to support the needs of social development, it should adjust and innovate the discipline paradigm of liberal arts through the reset of the discipline system and the reconstruction of the liberal arts talent training specification, to make up for the

shortcomings of the traditional liberal arts with poor practicality and innovation, uphold the spirit of innovative practice, promote the new liberal arts to take the path of practical innovation, and build a practical system of teaching to liberal arts, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: A Comparison between Curriculum Standards and Foreign Language Learning Traditions

A Comparison between Curriculum Standards and Foreign Language Learning Traditions		
Culture/Object of Foreign Language Learning	Course Standard	Foreign Language Learning Tradition
Objective	Core qualities of English: language ability, cultural awareness, thinking quality, learning ability	Passing the exam and getting good grades
Teacher	Guide, facilitator	Leader and information source
Student	Learning independently	Listening carefully, and completing homework
Teacher-student relationship	Co construction	Respect and obey
Teaching method/learning method	English learning activities oriented to the core quality of the subject	Reading, imitating, reciting, retelling, interpreting, translating, analyzing
Textbook	The main carrier for students to learn English	Based on the standard

For example, the base of the English News Compilation Course adopts the mode of government investment and school enterprise cooperation, adheres to the principle of "building by sections, gradually expanding, building while benefiting", and gradually builds a base of national practical education that is trans-regional, trans-institutional, trans-professional, multi-subject and multi-level [7]. As far as the organization and guidance mode would be concerned, in the initial stage, virtual space is dominant, and schools and enterprises regularly focus on joint guidance. Later, it gradually develops into a physical base and a virtual base in parallel, and students regularly enter the physical base to receive joint guidance from schools and enterprises. As far as the news content is concerned, there was only one channel in the initial stage, and in the later stage, it gradually expanded to finance, science and technology, tourism, sports, entertainment, pictures and other channels. And the languages have gradually expanded from English to Japanese, French, Russian, German, Korean, and other languages, while the news carrier has expanded from print media to mobile video media. Moreover, the operation of the practice base provides an adequate and stable project source for the news curriculum system, realizes the linkage between practice teaching and classroom teaching, and achieves the goal of daily practice [8]. At the same time, it has formed a community of professional translation, which interacts with the online publishing space. The project has multiple characteristics, such as a wide range of benefits, diverse content, and strong controllability of the school.

### 3.3. Promoting the Integrated Development of "Liberal Arts" Education with the Concept of the Whole Training

Driven by the increasing integration of industrial structure, rapid innovation of science and technology, and large social changes, the differentiation and integration of disciplines are carried out simultaneously. Any discipline should include more kinds of core knowledge, instead of being composed of single knowledge. The humanities and social sciences are facing differentiation and reorganization. However, the symbiosis and growth between disciplines cannot stay at a shallow

level, nor can they be merged for integration. And blind reliance on grafting of science and engineering, and seeking the path of discipline foothold through a simple integration, will inevitably lead to the dissolution of disciplinary boundaries, and then lead to the extinction of disciplines [9]. At present, the construction of the English News Compilation Course must take the "whole person" training as the concept, promote the internal integration of the courses, and then break through the internal and external limitations of the traditional English News Compilation Course. Under the background of discipline integration, we should cultivate people with all-round development, then make the construction of new liberal arts go out of the isolated island of humanities. Firstly, the construction of the English News Compilation Course should point to the educational goal of "whole person training". The concept of "whole person training" is cast into every link of the construction. "From the three dimensions of general education, professional education and humanistic education, create a compiled curriculum system that adapts to the new liberal arts education reform, and establish a teaching team with an interdisciplinary background. Secondly, the construction of the curriculum must take breaking through the innovative new as the basic concept, break through the internal limitations of the liberal arts itself, and connect with society, philosophy, and politics. Furthermore, the internal communication channels of humanities and social sciences, such as history, lay the foundation for the integration of arts and science [10]. Finally, under the new era background of the increasingly complex social structure and the gradual integration of industrial development, we advocate that the new round of construction paths should desalinate discipline by discipline, devote to the interdisciplinary and integration of disciplines, upgrade the discipline model of liberal arts, promote the integrated development of multiple disciplines, and promote the integration, interaction and innovative development of liberal arts and science. While shaping students' humanistic connotations and feelings with liberal arts education, we should integrate scientific content, resources, and conditions, constantly broaden students' horizons, cultivate students' integrated and innovative thinking, and improve students' comprehensive ability.

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