

Teaching Innovation of British and American Literature

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Abstract: To learn a language, we must have a deep understanding of the culture represented by the language, and the most representative form of culture is literature; therefore, in order to learn English, we must strengthen the study of British and American literature. Through the study of British and American literature, we can deeply understand the characteristics of British and American culture, so as to deeply grasp the cultural characteristics of English, and then improve the ability to use English accurately and skillfully. This paper mainly discusses how to carry out the teaching of the course of British and American literature, with the purpose of effectively improving the teaching effect of the course of British and American literature.

1. Introduction

Characters are the genetic characteristics of a nation, language is the identity of a nation, and literature is the best form by which languages can be spread, often revealing the historical imprint of a nation. The essence of learning English is to learn English culture. Learning English culture is an impassable threshold for learning English and American literature. Therefore, it is of practical significance to explore the teaching of British and American literature.

Doing a good job in cultural exchange is an important way to build this advanced cultural system. The modes and ways of cultural exchange are diverse, and the study of foreign literature is one of the important ways. Foreign literature is an important form of expression of foreign culture and a concentrated embodiment of foreign cultural characteristics. The study of foreign literature will help to broaden our horizons, enrich our knowledge, form an enlightening role for our cultural construction, and further promote the development of our socialist literary cause, promote our better innovation of literary creation ideas and methods as well. Only the study based on a full understanding of the background of a language's evolution and practical significance is the real study, can help learners truly master this language.[1]

2. Innovation in the Teaching of British and American Literature

2.1 The Disadvantages of Literature Teaching in English Class

The current popular traditional teaching of British and American literature is basically the

interpretation of literary history and extracts of literary works. The study of literary history is mainly the listing of knowledge points, and a lot of knowledge of literary history is drawn out, which makes students focus on rote memorization, monotonous and boring. In addition, some literary works will be included in traditional textbooks, but most of these literary works exist in the form of fragments. Like the excerpts of Chairman Mao's quotations from the Red Book of the year, the integrity of literary works is basically fragmented; and the teacher's explanation of these excerpts, just like the teaching in middle school, only focuses on the explanation of sentence patterns and words. This traditional teaching mode has several disadvantages. First, it equates the course of British and American literature with the basic course focusing on the study of words and sentences, rather than treat it as a literature course; second, this kind of teaching method cannot teach students the ways, methods, basic principles, and teaching purposes of analysing and appreciating literary works. It still stays in dealing with the exam and everyone passes the exam; third, this kind of teaching method is basically a one-man play by teachers, which is a cramming teaching method. It is impossible to cultivate students' interest in learning, let alone arouse students' enthusiasm for learning. [2]

Because of these drawbacks, students who have experienced the study of British and American literature are basically learning from the surface, not to mention the study of British and American literature. The study under this mode has lost the fundamental significance of learning, and only stays at the stage of knowing what it is and why it is, and its effect is conceivable.

2.2 Innovation of Literature Teaching in the Classroom

The evolution of literature is inseparable from the rise and fall of the country. As an important part of the history of literature, learning English and American literature should first guide students to understand the history of national development and the major impact of various factors on literature in the current period. The longer the history is, the more brilliant the achievements of literature are. English literature has gone through different historical stages, such as the Renaissance, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, and so on. These distinctive phased characteristics are closely related to and closely corresponding to the development status and level of politics, economy, society, culture and other aspects in the corresponding historical period. Compared with English literature, the history of American literature is much shorter, which is due to the short history of the founding of the United States. Because the United States itself is a North American colony born from Britain, its literature was the earliest and inevitable existence of a branch of British literature; however, after the American War of Independence, especially after the Civil War, American literature became more and more mature, and a large number of excellent literary works based in the United States emerged. Their local characteristics and styles were significantly different from traditional British literature. American literature gradually separated from the status of the branch of British literature, and became truly independent and powerful national literature.

Literature is a response to life experience. Any kind of literary work contains the author's ideology, the author's thinking about life, and the author's value orientation. British and American literature has the same function. The formation process of every British and American literary work is the formation process of the creator's cognition of life and life. Therefore, studying the cognitive function of British and American literature is essentially studying the implicit cognition of life and life in British and American literary works. The process of literary creation is the process of artistic reprocessing of life. Therefore, any kind of literature has its intrinsic artistic value, and British and American literature is also no exception. British and American literature is a record of the life of the times, reflecting the creators' aesthetic view of the life of the times. To understand western culture,

the literature of Britain and America is the best reflection of society.

3. The Feasible Measures for the Teaching Innovation of British and American Literature

Innovation is the eternal motive of social progress. Only continuous innovation can promote the continuous development of the cause. The development of socialist education with Chinese characteristics is also inseparable from innovation. The teaching mode of British and American literature in colleges and universities must follow the development trend of the times, adhere to keeping pace with the times, constantly introduce the old and bring forth the new, and actively explore the innovation of teaching mode, so as to significantly improve the teaching effect of this course, promote students' English level to significantly improve, promote students to deeply understand western culture through the study of British and American literature, strengthen cultural exchanges between the East and the West, and improve their knowledge.

The compilation of textbooks for the course of British and American literature, although the selected ones are all the colourful passages of selected classical works in British and American literature, is only the excerpt of fragments after all, and once any literary work is cut, it is difficult to truly appreciate its artistic charm and ideological connotation. Only after carefully reading a complete play of Shakespeare, can we have an understanding of Shakespeare's creative characteristics and style, only by saying that you have really read Shakespeare can you have the basic qualifications to discuss Shakespeare with others, and that you can make your comments on Shakespeare really have certain opinions; Therefore, students should be encouraged to appreciate excellent translations of the original works after school and edify the artistic value and literary skills of British and American literature.[3]

The course of British and American literature is not only the teaching of language, but also the cultivation of profound literary literacy. Only based on this understanding can we focus on teaching this course lively and effective from the perspective of literature. The content of the basic literary analysis method is mainly to train students to analyze and appreciate the article from the aspects of language, structure, expression, character image, details, article theme, article artistic conception, etc. This is a method to teach students to know why. Instruct students to analyze British and American literary works from the perspective of language, mainly to guide students to feel the artistic charm of the works from the characteristics of words and sentences, rhetoric, emotion, style and other aspects as well as the style of language. The analysis of expression methods is mainly about the analysis of the artistic methods and writing ideas of the work, carefully understanding the author's writing ideas, and feeling the author's originality in the use of rhetoric and the choice of expression methods. In guiding students to analyze the images portrayed in British and American literary works, we should mainly grasp the characteristics and quality of the images, as well as the social or era significance of the images portrayed in the works. As for the analysis and appreciation of the structure of the work, we should focus on the uniqueness of the author's paragraph arrangement and how the theme of expression is laid out. A good literary work must pay full attention to the creation of artistic conception. The artistic conception, expressed or induced by images, is a virtual thing that needs readers to experience and feel. It expresses the realm and mood of literary works, and is the space for aesthetic imagination of literary works to readers. To cultivate students' methods of literary analysis, we must cultivate students' experience and feelings of artistic conception. Only in this way can students enter into literary works and truly grasp the essence of literary works. In addition, it is also necessary to cultivate students' methods of analyzing and grasping the theme of the work, and guide students to achieve this goal from the aspects of the title of the work, the emotional level of the paragraph, the author's writing purpose and emotional tendency. At the same time, students should be trained to analyze and grasp the details of the work,

because the details are often the highlight of the image of the work.[4]

In addition to cultivating students' methods of analyzing literary works, it is also necessary to cultivate students' establishment of literary critical ideas. Any literary work represents an ideology, so when reading any literary work, you must have a critical eye, remove the weeds, identify the good and the bad, and absorb the essence. Criticism is not criticism, but one of the principles that literary appreciation must follow. Cultivating students' critical thinking can better form their own divergent thinking and improve their self-expression ability. At the same time, it can also exercise and improve students' English writing ability.[5]

In the teaching of English and American literature, the teaching time in the classroom is far from enough. The development of society needs innovation, and the progress of the times needs innovation; the development of education is also inseparable from innovation. The innovation of college English courses for non-English majors must become the theme throughout the whole career of a college English teacher. Through continuous exploration, we can establish a teaching and learning model that conforms to the characteristics of the development of the times, can effectively promote English education and improve the English ability of non-English majors. How to integrate British and American literature into college English classroom and autonomous learning after class by means of new media and other means and adopting appropriate teaching methods is a subject that every teacher in the new era must constantly study.[6]

4. Conclusion

College English teaching lasts a long time, has a high frequency of teaching and a wide coverage of students. Combining the contents of college English textbooks and integrating British and American culture into the classroom and students' autonomous learning will help students to think about Chinese and Western culture. [7] With the development of modern information technology and the popularization of Internet applications, it is inevitable to study literature education under the new media environment. Through the carrier of language, guide students to compare the similarities and characteristics of different cultures in English courses, so as to help students establish a healthy outlook on life and the world.

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