

Research on the Integration of Ideological and Political Theories Education and Translation Teaching in the New Era

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Abstract: In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, higher education in universities requires the integration of all courses with ideological and political theories, fully leveraging the advantages and characteristics of various disciplines, and achieving the goal of cultivating well-rounded young people who possess morality, intelligence, physical fitness, and aesthetics. Against this backdrop, this paper first analyzes the current situation and existing problems of translation teaching in universities. It then explores the premise and necessity of integrating translation teaching with ideological and political theories. Next, taking into account the current educational and teaching situation and requirements, this paper explores practical approaches to integrating translation teaching and ideological and political theories teaching in all courses.

1. Introduction

General Secretary Xi emphasized in the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Higher Education that "we must adhere to moral education as the central link, integrate ideological and political work throughout the entire process of education and teaching, achieve comprehensive and all-round nurturing of students, and strive to create a new pattern of development for China's higher education." Against this backdrop, universities are required to educate students in accordance with the standards of talent cultivation in the new era, cultivating young people who are morally upright and talented, and enabling them to shoulder the responsibility of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. On the other hand, university instructors should not be limited to teaching course content, but also serve as guides for students' thinking. To cultivate new talents for the times, it is necessary to prioritize moral education. How to integrate ideological and political theories education with various disciplines has become the mainstream of educational development and a hot topic in current academic research.

English, as an internationally recognized language, is closely related to China's education system. Strengthening ideological and political theories education in English translation teaching,

promoting the integration of ideological and political theories to achieve new development are not only conducive to enhancing students' resistance to Western ideologies and strengthening their political beliefs, but also to fostering their cultural confidence and becoming disseminators, builders, and promoters of Chinese culture. At the meantime, translation teaching naturally lends itself to the integration with ideological and political theories education. The exploration of their integration can enrich the experience of ideological and political teaching in the new era and provide valuable references for the reform of other disciplines.

2. Problems in domestic translation teaching

The first problem lies in the lack of awareness of ideological and political theories education among teaching subjects in translation teaching. The emphasis on ideological and humanistic education in translation teaching is not sufficiently high, and teachers often fail to consciously explore the ideological elements within the teaching content, thereby remaining trapped in a narrow view of knowledge-focused curriculum.^[4] Our understanding of translation should go beyond a simplistic instrumental view and fully comprehend that the process of translation is also a process of value proposition and value dissemination. It should be a consensus among stakeholders in translation education to cultivate competent translators who can effectively convey China's views to the world. This objective should be consistently implemented throughout curriculum design, teaching methods, and instructional practices.^[2] In actual translation teaching, teachers lack the consciousness of conducting ideological and political theories education, focusing only on the imparting of professional knowledge, and neglecting the guidance of students' values. Moreover, due to their own energy and research pressures, instructors unconsciously overlook the exploration of ideological and political theories education in the curriculum.

The second problem lies in the lack of awareness of ideological and political theories education among learning subjects in translation teaching. Students are occupied with extracurricular activities, competitions, exams, and employment, and they often do not attach enough importance to ideological and political courses. They excessively focus on the learning of professional knowledge, lack discernment in studying materials, and lack critical thinking about the values advocated by the West. Meanwhile, translation courses contain a disproportionate number of elements from Western culture, emphasizing the transmission of Western values, social life, and customs. The excessive input of culture may to some extent affect students' values and concepts, inadvertently weakening their sense of identification and confidence in their mother tongue culture, resulting in a widespread loss of proficiency in the mother tongue.

The third problem is that the effectiveness of modern online teaching is not ideal. The advancement of Internet technology has brought about significant changes in higher education teaching activities. The development of "Internet+ Education" has led to the continuous updating of various online courses, mobile classrooms, and educational apps. However, for ordinary university students who lack self-discipline, they are easily distracted by electronic devices, and the fragmented and complex information they receive greatly reduces the coherence of knowledge. Additionally, watching online course replays, asking others to attend classes on their behalf, and engaging in idle activities have become the norm for most students, making it difficult to ensure effective learning outcomes.

3. Exploring the Integration of Translation Teaching and Ideological and Political Theories Education in the Curriculum

3.1 Premise

The integration of translation teaching and ideological and political theories education is necessary. Translation serves as a significant medium for language and cultural exchange, acting as a bridge between two languages. Its professional study itself is a convergence of Sino-Western cultural exchange. The cultivation of translation talents involves not only imparting knowledge and skills but also instilling them with the correct worldview and values, making them highly skilled individuals with both moral integrity and talent.

The integration of these two fields is feasible. The construction of ideological and political theories education in the curriculum places new requirements on translation teaching in English majors in universities. It should move forward in the same direction as the objectives of English major education while fulfilling its own responsibilities. Translation, as a specialized discipline, offers a wide range of choices in terms of teaching content, with learning materials encompassing various subjects, including ideological and political materials. Moreover, the teaching content of English courses in universities contains many characteristic resources that can be developed for ideological and political theories education. The integration of ideological and political content into translation teaching is not out of place. This fully demonstrates that translation studies have a natural foundation for ideological and political theories education and provides possibilities for the integration of ideological and political theory teaching in various professional courses with translation teaching at the disciplinary level.

3.2 Approaches to Integration

3.2.1 It is necessary to fully explore current political hot topics to enhance students' patriotism and national consciousness.

Translation courses contribute to the development of students' patriotism, national responsibility, and professional sensitivity. Unlike other professions, translators often appear in foreign publicity and diplomatic activities. They not only serve as bridges between the East and the West but also bear the significant responsibility of promoting Chinese culture and its current development to the world. In such contexts, translators need to maintain a high level of national consciousness, national responsibility, and professional sensitivity, striving to safeguard and establish a positive international image while skillfully handling and avoiding any actions that may damage China's image. In teaching, by establishing translation practice scenarios and various translation exercises, students can gain a deeper understanding of the responsibilities and missions carried by translators in their work, fostering a strong sense of national consciousness and professional responsibility.

Translation teaching should focus on the development of professional skills and knowledge while exploring the ideological and political theories educational resources embedded in the curriculum and formulating corresponding teaching plans based on its own characteristics. Translation majors also require extensive post-class practice and adequate pre-translation preparation. Appropriate material selection can allow students to develop comprehensive knowledge of China's development while training their translation skills, strengthening their resonance with national development, and effectively enhancing their sense of pride and patriotism.

In terms of selecting teaching resources, translation majors can deviate from traditional fixed textbooks. Teaching resources are not limited to the content of a particular textbook but can be selected and integrated from various platforms, such as texts, videos, audio files of different genres

of external propaganda, etc. When selecting teaching materials, teachers should choose the latest translation materials based on current policy changes in China and the hot issues of social development. For instance, diplomatic translation texts can include speeches by General Secretary Xi at important international conferences, speeches by ambassadors attending conferences, and bilingual transcripts of routine press conferences by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Economic and trade translation can include texts related to the "Belt and Road" economic cooperation, official reports on economic development released by the State Council, foreign trade reports, and materials published by the World Trade Organization. Medical translation materials can include materials from the website of the National Health Commission and the World Health Organization. Technology translation can include materials on the development of China's aerospace industry and major scientific and technological innovations. Incorporating ideological and political elements into translation textbooks is not only of great significance for cultivating translation talents in the new era but also an essential path for the development of translation courses.

3.2.2 Efforts should be made to root traditional Chinese culture and enhance students' cultural confidence.

In the teaching of English major courses at universities, translation courses serve not only as a platform for cultivating students' comprehensive English application abilities but also as a grand lecture hall for promoting socialist core values, traditional Chinese culture, and excellent local cultures.^[1] Traditional culture serves as the source of a nation's development and the foundation for cultural self-confidence. From the perspective of current development, the values embodied in the outstanding traditional Chinese culture can provide strong impetus for the development of our society. In the context of cultural globalization, different cultural ideologies collide, and the majority of students' lifestyles, cultural thinking, and learning methods are impacted by cultural hegemony, significantly weakening their sense of national cultural identity. Therefore, cultivating the cultural self-confidence of translation learners, promoting our country's outstanding traditional culture, and enhancing national cultural creativity are among the missions of integrating translation teaching and ideological and political theories education. Students should gain a deeper understanding of their country's profound culture and demonstrate the excellent traditions of interpersonal relationships and handling affairs from their own traditional culture in cross-cultural communication. In this way, they can acquire solid professional knowledge while remaining true to their original aspirations, showcasing sound cultural development concepts, and actively exploring the path of traditional cultural development.

China's outstanding traditional culture is as splendid as stars, and the history of translation development has been long and profound. "Promoting the global dissemination of Chinese traditional culture" has also been repeatedly mentioned by General Secretary Xi in recent years as an important development direction. There is a wide range of materials available for translation learning in this field, including various literary genres such as poetry, songs, and novels. Examples include different translations of the famous novel "Dream of the Red Chamber" from the Qing Dynasty, Mr. Xu Yuanhong's English translations of ancient Chinese poems, such as "Shijing" (The Book of Songs), "Chuci" (The Songs of Chu), "Three Hundred Tang Poems: A New Translation," and "Selected Poems of Li Bai." There are countless translated masterpieces and elegant verses that can be selected, such as "Shi Bu Ke Yi Bu Hong Yi, Ren Zhong Er Dao Yuan"(a Chinese sentence which means that as a scholar, a gentleman, you must have broad and persevering qualities, because you have a great responsibility and a long way to go.), "Wang Yang Er Bu Lao, Wei Wei Chi Ye"(a Chinese sentence which means even if you do something wrong, you still have time to correct it), "Yu Qiong Qian Li Mu, Geng Shang Yi Ceng Lou"(a Chinese sentence which means if you want to see the scenery of thousands of miles, you have to climb a higher tower.)

“Guo Er Bu Neng Zhi, Shi Bu Zhi Ye; Zhi Er Bu Neng Gai, Shi Bu Yong Ye” (a Chinese sentence which means it is unwise to have mistakes without knowing that there is a mistake; it is a lack of courage to know your mistakes and not correct them.); Contemporary renowned translator Mr. Zhang Peiji has also left behind four works, namely "Selected Translations of Chinese Modern Prose in English," which are exemplary materials for studying the translation of prose. Only by fully understanding the content of the mother tongue culture and grasping its connotations can we truly inherit and promote traditional culture and propel Chinese culture towards the world. Translation teachers can appropriately select materials to help students practice and use comparative language learning methods to experience the profound and excellent traditional culture, thereby enhancing their cultural identity and cultural dissemination abilities.

3.2.3 Ideological consciousness should be combined to enhance students' critical thinking skills.

As a means of communication and cultural carrier, language also has a certain function of ideological dissemination. Language users are inevitably influenced by the ideological factors such as values, ideals, beliefs, and social-cultural thought systems of the society they are in. Mainstream news media, as the voice of the country, have deeply imprinted ideological marks on news language.

With the advancement of globalization, English, as the international mainstream media language, inundates people's lives with English news dominating international public opinion, even manipulating people's ideologies. Due to differences in ideologies and national positions, countries around the world, out of self-interest, choose different perspectives in interpreting, commenting, and reporting on the same event, tinged with their strong ideological colors. Western media has always failed to free itself from the "China threat theory" when reporting on China, depicting China as "authoritarian," "barbaric," and "backward," tarnishing China's image, and using dishonest democracy and human rights issues to defame and suppress China, implementing double standards. By analyzing the reports of mainstream news media in China and Western countries on relevant issues, we can understand the thinking and logic behind the different discourses of Chinese and Western cultures. The purpose of news translation is to ensure that news translations conform to the mainstream cultural ideology of the target language society and the cognitive expectations of target language readers. Therefore, in the process of translating English news related to China, students can be guided to appropriately shift the ideological perspectives of English news to conform to China's mainstream ideology and political positions in order to shape a positive image of China.

To address the issue of Western media tarnishing China's image, it is important to guide students in discerning the biased rhetoric of Western media that cherry-picks information. Students should be encouraged to uphold their ideological stance, defend national dignity, enhance critical thinking skills, develop dialectical thinking abilities, and strengthen their patriotic sentiments. This will enable them to critically analyze media narratives and narratives about China, and to form well-informed and balanced perspectives.^[5] When recommending extracurricular reading materials to students, translation teachers should not merely recommend them without guidance. Magazines such as "The Economist" and "The New Yorker" are common foreign language reading materials. Students should be guided to delve into the ideological issues hidden behind foreign media news, think rationally, and clarify the true intentions of Western media. This way, they can objectively view political, economic, and social phenomena in China and the West from different cultural perspectives, not being misled by Western reports, and always firmly upholding the country's image and dignity.

3.2.4 Quality teaching resources should be shared to promote complementary advantages among universities.

Sharing is the ultimate goal of development, and the sharing of educational resources is a powerful means to promote educational development. In the new era, promoting the sharing of educational resources and allocating teaching resources reasonably is an important issue in educational reform. Under the background of the rapid development of higher education, the degree of co-construction of educational resources falls far short of the needs of teachers and students. Many educational resources are outdated and lack updates, and the awareness of co-construction of educational resources is relatively weak. For example, many course resources lack updates, the teaching models of courses have remained the same for decades, and the knowledge systems of courses remain unchanged, lacking updates. In terms of organizational form, the co-construction of educational resources in higher education currently lacks clear norms, and the sharing of most educational resources is the result of individual spontaneous behavior, mainly achieved through personal relationships. With the support of the epidemic situation and the rapidly developing network technology, the development of online education has been vigorously promoted through the creation of online education platforms, which have accumulated valuable experience for online teaching and the rational allocation of educational resources. Major universities have introduced high-quality online courses on their official websites, which have gradually gained scale after several years of development, but there is still a gap from comprehensive co-construction and sharing.

To achieve the goal of talent cultivation, it is necessary to design distinctive courses that align with the desired characteristics.^[3] Translation courses in universities have their own characteristics and strengths. For example, Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology has created unique features in meteorological translation based on its advantages in meteorology. The development history of meteorology at the university itself is also a partial portrayal of the development of meteorology in New China. The Foreign Service Institute is the cradle of Chinese diplomats, and the development of its English department and interpretation major is distinctive and unique, with a curriculum arrangement infused with ideological and political theories education. Courses such as international current affairs, U.S. diplomacy, and Marxism all demonstrate its unique insights into ideological and political theories education. Promoting educational sharing is not only the co-construction and sharing of teaching resources but also the mutual learning and complementation of teaching experience and models. Universities should work together to promote the integration of ideological and political theories education into translation teaching, which will undoubtedly be more effective than translation teachers exploring alone.

4. Conclusion

In a word, universities are at the forefront of cultural exchanges between China and the West, and translation serves as an important medium for communication between the two. As a discipline, the accelerated construction of a disciplinary ideology and political education system in translation not only conforms to the goals of national education reform but also meets the needs of professional talent cultivation. In the new era, translation teaching in universities should fully leverage the resource advantages of Chinese excellent traditional culture, shifting from solely teaching translation skills to socialist core values and ideological and political theories education. While fully tapping into their own resources, universities should also absorb outstanding ideological and political resources from other disciplines. By achieving resource sharing, a new model of integrating translation and ideological and political theories education can be forged, cultivating translation talents for the new era who possess both firm determination and solid translation skills,

and nurturing builders and successors for socialist modernization.

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