

# *Research on the Integration and Practice of Ideological and Political Education in College English Course*

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**Keywords:** Ideological and Political Education; College English Course; Education Reform

**Abstract:** Curriculum ideological and political education is an educational concept with Chinese characteristics proposed in the context of the new era, and it is also an inevitable trend in the reform and development of various professional disciplines in universities at present. At present, ideological education in Chinese universities is facing some challenges, and it is important to prevent various foreign erroneous ideas from having a negative impact on the ideological consciousness of college students. Therefore, it is of great responsibility to integrate ideological and political education into college English course. The college English course has a dual nature of cultivating humanistic qualities and imparting language knowledge, making it an important platform for ideological and political education. Integrating ideological and political education into college English teaching is an essential path for the reform of college English teaching. Based on analyzing the significant importance of expanding college English courses for ideological and political education, this paper proposes the core issues of integrating ideological and political education into college English teaching and explores feasible ways to organically combine the two.

## **1. Introduction**

In the new era, various courses should align with the direction of ideological and political theory courses to create a synergistic effect. Therefore, promoting the transition from “ideological and political courses” to “ideological and political education in all courses” is key to exploring elements of ideological and political education in other courses and teaching methods. Integrating ideological and political education into college English education is both instrumental and humanistic, and it is an important part of realizing the comprehensive and all-encompassing “grand ideological and political education” model.

## **2. The necessity and importance of combining College English teaching with ideological and political education**

### **2.1 The roles of language**

Language is the carrier of culture and a special social phenomenon. As a communication tool, language itself has no class nature, but as a tool to record the production, life and ideology of western English-speaking countries, it will undoubtedly reflect the world outlook, values and ethics of relevant nationalities [5].

### **2.2 The influence of Western culture**

To improve their English proficiency, college students consciously or unconsciously seek to learn more about Western culture, read books related to English, listen to relevant English broadcasts, watch original English movies and TV shows, and browse related English websites. Although this greatly helps in enhancing their English skills and overall English application abilities, it is important to note that most of these English materials are written by Westerners, which undoubtedly reflect Western values and moral ethics. This will have a certain impact on the students' thinking. If college English teaching does not timely guide and educate students on how to correctly approach the ideology of Western culture and enhance their ability to discern Western cultural consciousness, it loses the ideological and political education function of the college English curriculum. This is mainly reflected in the following two aspects.

#### **2.2.1 Blind absorption of Western moral and ethical concepts**

College students are in their outlook on life, world outlook, the values formation period, they lack the discrimination and resistance to the erosion of western capitalist cultural consciousness, blindly praise highly, comprehensively receive western concept, values, ethics. They cannot fully understand the hypocrisy of so-called democracy as well as essence of the Chinese nation excellent culture. A few college students completely accept western values and moral and ethical concepts, believing that when they grow up, their parents and teachers should not interfere too much in their life and study.

#### **2.2.2 Blind imitation of western way of life**

At present, some college students blindly imitate the western way of life, the phenomenon of westernization can be seen everywhere. Some college students blindly pursue the Western way of life regardless of their actual life, eat Western food, celebrate foreign festivals, and even in the daily communication with classmates are also mixed with "Western". However, they pretend not to know the Chinese traditional festivals and way of life [1].

### **2.3 The importance of integrating ideology and politics education into College English teaching**

Curriculum ideology and politics refers to the idea that all teaching subjects and educational activities in schools should be conducted through the curriculum, with moral education at its core. It aims to fully explore the moral education elements within professional knowledge, integrating professional courses with moral education, and embedding moral education into the entire process of education and teaching to promote the comprehensive development of students. As one of the most popular general education courses in China, college English is an important battleground for

ideological and political education. College English teachers have the obligation to take on the responsibility of practicing ideological and political education.

### **2.3.1 The foundation of the education—moral education**

Teaching is the means, education is the foundation, and moral education is the basis of all education. A sound personality and a correct worldview, outlook on life, and values are prerequisites for college students to apply their professional knowledge and skills to various aspects of society and serve the country and the people. Among the courses offered in higher education, college English courses have extensive hours, long duration, wide scope, strong faculty, broad application, and high social attention. Therefore, they should bear the heavy responsibility of ideological and political education in higher education institutions. English teachers should use language teaching as a means to strengthen the influence of socialist core values on students, continuously improve students' ideological level, political awareness, moral quality, and cultural literacy, and cultivate well-rounded socialist builders and successors with both integrity and talent.

### **2.3.2 The grim situation at home and abroad**

With the advent of the information age, [3] college students have unprecedented access to a large amount of information, but the information is uneven and dazzling. Articles on public accounts, we-media and other channels, as well as comments on social “public knowledge” in social media are no lack of admiration. Fawning on foreign countries, money worship and lack of moral sense, sense of justice. All teachers, especially college English teachers who have close contact with western thought, are duty-bound to strengthen ideological and moral education and cultivate students' political thought and patriotic feelings.

### **2.3.3 The ideological and political education is the inherent need of college English reform**

Firstly, English teaching falls within the realm of ideology. The content of English teaching involves multiple fields such as humanities, social sciences, and current affairs, which embody thoughts, cultures, and values. As a medium of cultural transmission, English has a significant impact on students' thinking. Therefore, English teaching is by no means detached from the ideological domain; rather, it is an important aspect of ideological work in higher education.

Secondly, the humanities English course requires the guidance of ideological and political education. The core of humanism is people-oriented, emphasizing the value of individuals and the cultivation of students' comprehensive qualities and overall development. To achieve this goal, the concept of “curriculum thinking and politics” should be practiced in English teaching. English teaching should adhere to a clear educational direction, integrate the education of socialist core values, and focus on guiding students' culture, morality, and values.

Thirdly, integrating “curriculum ideological and political education” into English teaching is determined by China's national conditions. China's unique historical culture and national conditions necessitate that China must follow its own path of higher education development and run higher education with Chinese socialist characteristics. The advantage of ideological and political education lies in integrating the curriculum education of the Chinese socialist education system into English teaching. Promoting the construction and development of the English discipline rooted in China's national conditions is conducive to discovering Chinese elements in English teaching content and promoting the localization and nationalization of English education and teaching. The innovation and development of English education have brought about “Chinese characteristics and style”.

### **3. The significance and roles of integrating ideological and political education into College English Courses**

#### **3.1 The significance of integrating ideological and political education into College English Course**

With the continuous development of science and technology, the use of various media means has intensified cultural exchanges between different countries. Due to poor judgment, most young students are easily influenced by misunderstandings. They cannot discriminate and fully absorb Western culture, which also leads to the sanctification of Western culture. Meanwhile, in college English classes, teachers inevitably touch upon Western social concepts and values when explaining Western history and culture. In the past teaching models, English teachers focused more on improving students' language skills and rarely evaluated these cultural concepts and values, guiding students' views on life, values, and the world. In English learning, students often content themselves with mastering vocabulary, dialogues, and passing exams, while seldom thinking about Western cultural thoughts and values. Therefore, the introduction of ideological and political education is particularly important. Therefore, incorporating ideological and political education into college English teaching is particularly important. Since the state strongly advocates integrating ideological education into the classroom to improve teaching and broaden teaching channels, English teachers should not only focus on cultivating college students' cultural knowledge and language skills but also place great emphasis on their moral education. This includes fostering their critical thinking towards Western culture and values, which is beneficial for our development and progress, preventing us from going astray or even making mistakes, and allowing us to take the essence and discard the dross.

#### **3.2 The Analysis on the role of ideological and political Education in College English Course**

The new international situation and national development have put forward new requirements for the cultivation of ideological and political qualities and moral qualities of college students. Integrating ideological and political education into college English classrooms is conducive to leveraging the guiding role of national education policies, further promoting the reform of college English teaching, and fostering a strong atmosphere of socialist core values and comprehensive education.

##### **3.2.1 Playing the guiding role of national education policies**

General Secretary [9] pointed out at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities, it was proposed that moral education should be regarded as the central aspect of college teaching. The main channel of classroom teaching should be fully utilized to promote the development of various courses in the same direction as ideological and political education. This requirement further emphasizes the important position of "moral education" in China's higher education. Universities should start with "cultivating virtue and nurturing people," advancing ideological and political education across different disciplines, and fully exploring the ideological and political education resources within various specialties. This is conducive to promoting comprehensive education in China's higher education system. The higher education institutions also emphasize the importance of improving the ideological quality of English major students in their English teaching syllabus. The college English classroom is not only a place for teaching language skills but also an important platform for enhancing ideological and political quality. Integrating ideological and political education into college English classroom teaching is a

significant manifestation of adhering to moral education. At the same time, national education policies can be promoted through college English teaching.

### **3.2.2 Promoting college English teaching reform**

Traditional college English teaching places more emphasis on language instruction and even strives to improve exam scores. This phenomenon is prevalent in both college English teaching and English major teaching, leading to the neglect of other functions in college English education. The fundamental goal of higher education is talent cultivation. Whether for English majors or interdisciplinary talents with “English + major”, it is essential to integrate into the development of the nation and society [11]. Especially in the context of China’s deepening opening-up, college English classrooms should incorporate ideological and political education to cultivate a group of talents with professional English skills and good ideological and political qualities. This will greatly enhance the comprehensive quality of college graduates in foreign exchange activities and further promote the reform of college English teaching with a focus on improving quality and ability.

### **3.2.3 Cultivating core socialist values**

In the process of China’s deepening opening-up, the collision of Chinese and Western thoughts is particularly evident in college English teaching. Against this backdrop, cultivating socialist values becomes especially important. College students, during the critical period of value formation, are more susceptible to the influence of multicultural thinking. If the development of socialist core values is neglected in the teaching process, it may lead to a lack of belief among students, confusion in value choices, and directly affect their confidence in their own culture, system, theory, and value system. Integrating ideological and political education into college English classroom teaching can enable college students to appreciate the charm of diverse cultures, enhance their ability to make value choices, approach Western culture with a critical attitude, maintain a clear political mind, uphold good moral qualities, and leverage the core socialist values in their value choices, thereby exerting influence in their personal growth.

### **3.2.4 Creating a strong atmosphere of full staff education**

Classroom teaching is the primary medium of school education. College English textbooks contain a substantial amount of ideological and political education content. Incorporating ideological and political education into college English classroom teaching helps enhance students’ ideological and theoretical quality. College students are the backbone of the country’s future development, and improving their political theoretical literacy contributes to creating a strong atmosphere of education and moral cultivation.

## **4. To explore the integration and practice of ideological and political education and College English courses**

### **4.1 The method of integration of ideological and political education and College English**

Whether from the perspective of the content of the texts or the teaching methods, the potential for moral education in college English teaching is always higher than in other subjects. This is because language learning directly involves the cultural customs and values of different countries. Therefore, the clash of different ideologies requires college teachers to fully integrate ideological and political education with college English teaching, helping students form a correct, healthy, and comprehensive worldview. College English teachers should start from the educational aspects of the

college English curriculum, explore a more scientific and reasonable integration path, and uncover the cultural genes and value paradigms embedded in the English courses. Ideological and political education should be conducted consciously, organically, and effectively in the teaching process.

#### **4.1.1 Integrating ideological and political education into the basic English teaching process**

In the process of English teaching, teachers should not only provide students with basic language knowledge but also make English teaching a formalized presence to enhance their abilities. In actual teaching, teachers should base their approach on the textual content of English teaching, use linguistic representation, explore the profound humanistic spirit contained in the text, and encourage students to further understand what truth is during the learning process. With a high level of political awareness, teachers should improve students' discernment abilities, help them establish correct life values, and promote their physical and mental health development. [12] For example, when teaching Diogenes and Alexander, the plot of this text is relatively simple and clear. It tells the story of Emperor Alexander, who was revered by thousands, possessed extreme wealth and supreme power, and Diogenes the Cynic, who lived at the bottom of the social hierarchy. The two men, though very different in their positions of power, were free men. General for this plot simple text, if the teacher continues to use the traditional text spread teaching, students will feel boring and enthusiasm for learning will be reduced. Teachers can enrich and optimize the teaching content. For example, let students explore the topic of "whether money can realize personal freedom" together in a group debate. During the discussion, teachers can timely receive students' life values and give timely guidance. On this basis, the teacher can also guide the students to inquire and ponder whether it is feasible to return to Diogenes' living conditions in modern times. What does this lifestyle teach us? Under systematic guidance, students' accurate view of money will also be set up in their minds, and let them realize that material sufficiency may be very important, but if they focus on the pursuit of material, the spirit will only become more barren, completely lose freedom. More importantly, it can regulate students' ideology and morality unconsciously and guide and explain the social and cultural differences between China and the West in college English teaching.

#### **4.1.2 Integrating ideological and political education into the teaching of English translation and writing**

Ideological and political education can also be integrated into the teaching process of English translation and writing. In other words, while teaching students theoretical knowledge such as translation methods and skills, teachers can also encourage them to participate in translation practice, thereby gaining corresponding ideological and political influence and penetration. Remain true to our original aspiration and keep our mission firmly in mind. Teachers can recommend some popular articles related to China and ask students to try translating them. This not only tests students' actual English translation level, but also further enhances their sensitivity to current political issues, enabling them to timely accept various national policies and ideas, and cultivate their patriotism [8].

#### **4.1.3 Integrating ideological and political education into the English practice process**

Listening and speaking courses are part of practical English courses. For example, the course tracks hot events in various fields of politics, culture and economy and pays attention to social situation. Foreigners in China are a special introduction to how to think about various phenomena happening in China. The program aims to record the living conditions and life stories of foreigners in China, reflecting the extensive and profound traditional Chinese culture from a personalized perspective. The development and changes of contemporary China, as well as the open and inclusive teachers can organize them into listening materials and push them to students. In fact,

indirectly realize the patriotic education of students, guide students to practice oral English, and "tell Chinese stories well".

## **4.2 The realization of ideological and practice education in College English courses**

College students are the primary targets of ideological and political education, and they are the focus of ideological and political education work in courses. Teachers are the implementers of educational activities and play a crucial role in ideological and political teaching within the curriculum. Only through the joint efforts of teachers and students can the ideological and political aspects be successfully integrated into the college English curriculum [10].

### **4.2.1 Improving the ideological and political qualities of college English teachers**

College English teachers play a leading and crucial role in the ideological and political education of courses. College students are influenced and educated in college English courses not only by the teachers' knowledge of English and intercultural communication skills but also by their ideological qualities and personal charisma. In particular, many college English teachers either have overseas backgrounds of pursuing master's or doctoral degrees or have long-term or short-term study abroad experiences, and their thoughts are more or less influenced by Western culture. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the ideological and political education of college English teachers and comprehensively improve their ideological and political qualities.

### **4.2.2 Selecting the teaching materials**

College English teachers must precisely understand General Secretary Xi's speech on national ideological and political work conference spirit, guided by the guide to the college English teaching [4], clear the basic idea of political education of college English course: in the process of cultivating students' English comprehensive ability, develop their autonomous learning ability, improve the comprehensive cultural quality, by systematically teaching tasks, help students to establish positive attitude toward life, set up the correct world outlook, the outlook on life and values, and the ideological and moral cultivation and organic fusion of college English teaching, while the British and American national newspaper magazine content is novel, language with time, the large amount of information, the original words, but most of them content represents the ideology of the western capitalist interests. If the teacher in the classroom without screening will be copied and quoted, easy to mislead students, shake young people's ideological belief. At the same time, teachers' selection of content does not mean blind rejection of foreign culture, but rational analysis, discarding the dross and selecting the essence.

### **4.2.3 Enriching and fully exploring the ideological and political elements**

In recent years, with the increasing awareness of "going out" in Chinese culture, [7] both teachers and students have benefited a lot. Many English media or online platforms in China, such as China Daily newspaper and website and Learning Power App, are well established and their content is carefully produced, which not only helps to vigorously promote Chinese culture to the outside world, but also can be used for college students' extracurricular independent learning. Teachers should extend in-class teaching to out-of-class teaching, further organically integrate language learning and critical thinking ability training, unconsciously enhance students' confidence in national culture and patriotism, so that students can understand, respect and tolerate different regional cultures. Only by objectively understanding the characteristics of eastern and western civilizations and treating the similarities and differences of cultures around the world can students

truly possess “Chinese soul and world mind”.

With the development of information technology, teachers should be fully mobilized. All kinds of resources, under the background of “Internet + Education”, promote the reform of ideological and political teaching mode of college English courses, create quality courses and teaching plans, establish a resource library of ideological and political education of English courses, develop an online platform of ideological and political education of English courses, build a network demonstration class of famous teachers, and promote the sharing of high-quality ideological and political teaching resources.

#### **4.2.4 Making full use of the main position of classroom teaching**

Classroom teaching [6] is the main way of ideological and political education for college students. Fully utilizing classroom teaching is the key to practicing the function of ideological and political education in college English. College English teachers should impart knowledge in classroom teaching, improve their ability and organic integration of ideological and political education, fully tap into the educational function of textbooks, supplement textbooks, so that college students can unconsciously receive education and infection, stimulate patriotism, feel the infiltration of beauty in thought, and the charm of noble moral character. College English teachers should improve their education and teaching level, teaching techniques, practical language, and the current development and social reality of college students, as well as China’s pursuit of dreams. They should explore and showcase the beauty of the soul and art from different perspectives and directions, in order to achieve the best effect of ideological and political education. For example, in daily college English teaching, the teacher can have two students shoot news in English before class, and the teacher also prepares English news to share with the students. When selecting and commenting on news, teachers can combine current social hotspots and focal issues to provide ideological and political education to students, stimulate their patriotism and national pride.

Effectively utilize extracurricular activities such as the second English class and interest groups to achieve comprehensive education. The second English classroom is an important component of English teaching, which is an important link in the process of increasing language practice opportunities, creating a good English learning environment, and improving English application ability. It is not only a supplement and extension of college English classroom teaching, but also an effective way to improve the language proficiency of English learners, and an important way to strengthen ideological and political education for college students. In the second lesson, compare Chinese and Western festivals. Exploring different topics such as international and domestic hot topics can be a practical approach to ideological and political education for college students.

## **5. Conclusion**

The ideological and political reform of the curriculum is an inherent requirement for the reform of college English teaching under the new situation. English teachers should take moral education as their responsibility, combine language and cultural knowledge teaching with ideological and political education for college students, and integrate ideological and political education throughout the entire teaching process, so that college English courses and ideological and political education can develop in the same direction. In order to achieve comprehensive education and make students become excellent talents with both virtue and ability, this study strives to create a new situation of the comprehensive integration of college English courses and ideological and political courses.

At the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities, [2] Xi emphasized that moral education should be the central link, and ideological and political work should be integrated into the entire process of education and teaching, creating a new situation for



the development of higher education in China. Under the new historical conditions, ideological and political education should not be limited to a single discipline, nor should it be fixed in specific textbooks and places, but should be combined with other professional disciplines in higher education. How to integrate English course content with ideological and political education is a question that college English teachers must consider. Integrating ideological and political education with college English teaching is a long-term process. University teachers must be based on the actual ideological dynamics of students, integrate education with entertainment, and gradually integrate ideological and political education into every teaching link of English courses. In this way, students will gradually awaken their thinking, constantly correct themselves, and truly become the sound talents needed in the current era.

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