

# Immersive Teaching and Its Enlightenment on English Education in China

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**ABSTRACT.** Immersive teaching method English education, as a foreign language teaching method, has achieved fruitful results abroad, organically combines foreign language learning with environment and emphasizes the importance of environment for language learning. Immersive foreign language teaching focuses on creating a foreign language learning environment, using foreign languages as learning tools rather than just learning purposes. Immersive foreign language teaching has really played the role of language and stimulated learners' interest in learning. Higher education in China is facing unprecedented changes. English educators should skillfully apply this teaching method to foreign language teaching in China, which is of great practical application and feasibility. This paper discusses the connotation and necessity of immersion teaching method, and then analyzes the current situation of English Teaching in primary schools. Finally, the corresponding strategies are put forward, that is, to create a proper learning atmosphere and strengthen the application of English.

**KEYWORDS:** Immersive teaching, English education, Environment

## 1. Introduction

Immersive teaching method, as a foreign language teaching method, has achieved fruitful results abroad, organically combines foreign language learning with environment and emphasizes the importance of environment for language learning [1]. English learning requires an appropriate environment to promote students' full communication and interaction. Teachers can use immersion teaching method to create a good learning environment and platform for students, which can greatly improve the teaching effect [2]. Many countries and regions have drawn lessons from immersion bilingual teaching mode to improve the effectiveness of their second language education and learning. Therefore, in order to successfully realize the goal of bilingual teaching in our university education, we must earnestly study the advantages and characteristics of "immersion bilingual teaching" and explore the "Chinese" immersion bilingual teaching mode in combination with the actual situation in our country [3]. Higher education in our country is facing unprecedented changes. Language educators should skillfully apply this teaching method to foreign language teaching in our country. This teaching method has great practical applicability and feasibility [4]. By immersing in the target language environment, students learn another language as they acquire their mother tongue, all of which provide value for the curriculum design, teaching method selection, teacher training, and writing of some materials in foreign language teaching in Chinese universities for reference.

Immersive foreign language teaching focuses on creating a foreign language learning environment, using foreign languages as a learning tool rather than learning purposes. Immersive foreign language teaching played a role in language and stimulated the interest of learners. Immersive teaching is a language teaching method originated in Canada [5]. This teaching method is rooted in the language itself, attaches importance to creating a good language learning environment, and puts forward new ideas for foreign language teaching in Chinese universities based on content. Immersive French teaching is one of the most innovative forms of teaching in Canadian language teaching. It has opened up a whole new path for the study of second language acquisition [6]. Many problems have emerged during the development of college English in China. These problems have seriously restricted the forward development of college English. The overall English level of the students is not high, and they have not reached the ideal development goals, which has left the university student's English talent market in a state of long-term despair [7]. The current society is a society with individual development. Attaching importance to the role of students in the classroom should be the core idea of the current educational cause. This article discusses the connotation and necessity of immersive teaching method, and then analyzes the current situation of English teaching in primary schools. Finally, a corresponding strategy is put forward based on this situation, namely to create a proper learning atmosphere and strengthen the application of English.

## 2. Summary of Immersive English Teaching

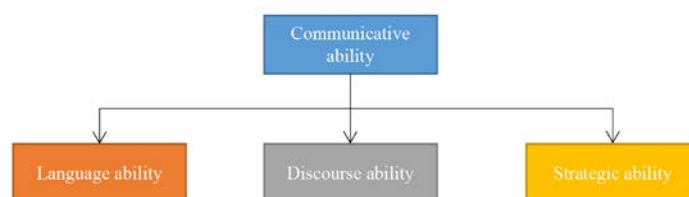
For students, English is a very important but difficult subject to master. In order for students to learn English well, teachers must optimize the teaching environment. At present, students' English teaching lacks proper learning atmosphere, which leads to students' inability to master English skills and improve their English expression ability. Immersive foreign language teaching refers to students immersed in the target foreign language environment all or half of the time in school. Foreign language is not only the content of learning, but also a learning tool. Immersion teaching method has certain representativeness. In actual application, teachers have not improved their understanding of immersion teaching method, made clear the purpose of English teaching, and have not paid sufficient attention to the application of immersion teaching method to create an appropriate learning environment for students [8]. Immersion teaching method emphasizes that students must have strong English thinking to improve their expression ability and use English at will. In primary school English teaching, the application of immersion teaching needs to be further improved. Primary school English teaching must adopt scientific methods to stimulate students' interest in learning English. Immersive teaching is a challenge to intelligence, especially to improve the cognitive ability of junior students and to strengthen their socialization.

Immersion foreign language teaching combines single foreign language teaching with other subjects. Other subjects also provide natural basis and environment for foreign language teaching, and provide learners with motivation and content for communication. In the process of learning English, students are often limited by the Chinese way of thinking, which causes certain interference to learning English. The key to the success of this teaching method lies in its unique language environment. In the Chinese immersion teaching class, teachers pay more attention to the acquisition of communicative competence and content, rather than the learning of language form. In the actual teaching process, many teachers lack of awareness of the cultivation of students' English thinking, which leads to the fact that in the process of teaching, teachers focus on improving students' language skills, but fail to cultivate students' good English thinking ability. Once out of the classroom environment, students rarely or even can't use English, and English thinking and language habits are more difficult to develop. The Chinese immersion teaching project has received strong support from local school districts, schools and parents. If teachers can combine English with other subjects when introducing the knowledge of English works in primary English classroom teaching, it can not only make students have emotional resonance, but also improve students' comprehensive quality.

## 3. Implementation of Immersive Teaching

Because students have obvious differences in English interest and learning ability, primary school English teachers must treat each student as a special individual in their teaching. The ultimate goal of immersion foreign language teaching is that teachers do not use their mother tongue in the classroom and instead use the target language to give lectures and explanations. In our country, the English language environment is relatively simple. Students mainly rely on learning and memorizing English grammar or vocabulary, which makes it difficult for students to communicate in English [9]. Teachers should, on the basis of accurately grasping each student's English specialty, reasonably arrange each student's role so that each student's individual specialty and cooperative communication ability can be brought into play [10]. In the specific implementation process, teachers should master a certain measure and degree, and adopt flexible teaching methods and means according to the personalized development needs of different students. In the process of English teaching, it is necessary to create an immersive English language environment so that students can use English as a learning and communication tool. In order to stimulate students' learning interest and motivation to the greatest extent, language teaching workers in Colleges and universities must use their brains and methods to fully mobilize and utilize various resources and teaching methods, so as to ensure students' mastery and understanding of knowledge.

The original thinking ability of English majors is not poor, but it is degraded because freshmen and sophomores put too much energy on language learning. Thinking ability is caused by the way of thinking. How to teach must be based on what to teach. Compared with teaching methods, teaching contents should be paid more attention. While learning English language knowledge, teachers should integrate cultural background knowledge into the process of language teaching as a part of language knowledge. Communicative competence consists of three parts, as shown in Figure 1.



*Fig.1 Composition of Communicative Competence*

Under the influence of immersion teaching method, the traditional school English teaching mode lacks the factors to stimulate students' thinking and cultivate their critical thinking ability. After the implementation of the first stage of English listening and speaking teaching supported by critical thinking ability, a stage test should be conducted. The main content of the test is the three modules learned in this stage. The test results are used as the basis for evaluating the learning effect of students in this stage, as well as the basis for strategy adjustment in the second stage. The test results are shown in Figure 2.

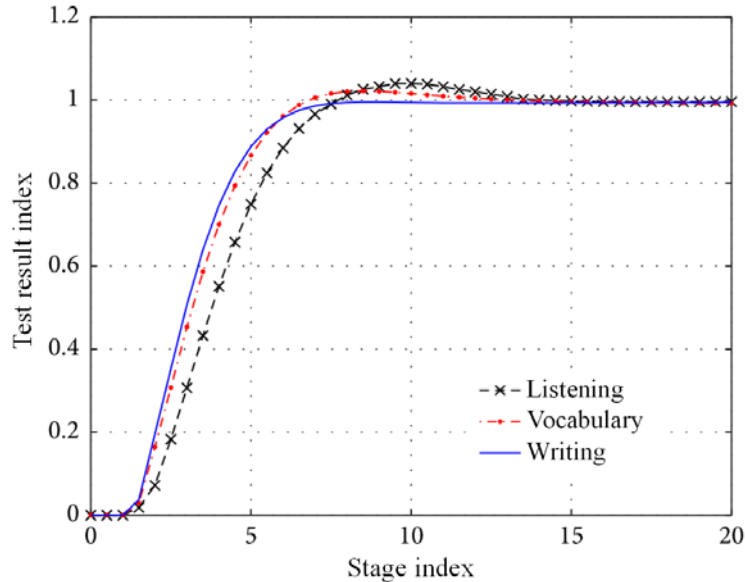


Fig.2 Comparison of Listening Test, Vocabulary and Writing Performance Data

After all, college English is a language course, not a cultural course, and its primary problem is to improve students' language ability. On the premise of respecting this, teachers should actively promote cultural infiltration teaching so as to enhance students' cultural awareness and improve their ability of cross-cultural communication. Due to the different assessment methods of English in the national college entrance examination, there are great differences in the English proficiency of college students. To improve students' cross-cultural communication ability, we should not only pay attention to the introduction of western culture, but also pay attention to the introduction and learning of Chinese culture. This not only enables our students to better understand western culture, but also to better adhere to their own national cultural traditions.

#### 4. Conclusion

Applying immersion teaching method in primary school English teaching can reduce the interference of mother tongue on English learning. Immersive English teaching should not only immerse students in English language environment, but also create an English cultural environment for students. Learning English is not only to learn language knowledge, but also to understand the cultural connotation carried by language. Bilingual English education in our country needs the concept of immersion. Only in a wider application environment and scope can students' English language ability be truly improved. In order to carry out immersion teaching better, teachers should understand the importance of the teaching method, improve the sense of identity of the teaching method, and constantly improve their theoretical literacy. Immersion teaching method focuses on cultivating students' English thinking, creating appropriate English learning environment for students, enabling students to have good English literacy, and improving their English application ability. To create an English cultural environment, students can understand the cultural differences of different languages, enhance cross-cultural awareness, and prepare for international exchanges and communication activities. Teachers should constantly improve their oral expression ability, so that they can understand the essence of immersion teaching method more deeply when teaching English.

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