

To Summarize How to Carry out Online College English Teaching Efficiently

Zhuolun Chen

Foreign language teaching and research department, Officers' College of PAP, Chengdu, China

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Abstract: Under the circumstance of the outbreak of COVID-19, online college English teaching is required for schools. Based on experiences during this special period, this paper aims to summarize and rethink online English teaching activities from four perspectives of teaching purpose, contents, methods and evaluation. What teachers worry about will be discussed, difficult problems will be proposed, and helpful suggestions will be shared in this paper so as to sum up the efficient way to carry out online college English teaching in the future.

1. Introduction

For all Chinese people, the Spring Festival of 2020 is an unforgettable holiday because of the outbreak of COVID-19. And during this pandemic, the new semester for all students and teachers are coming unexpectedly. Just under such a special circumstance, college English teachers, like other teachers of different courses, are required to get ready for online English teaching activities, according to the official notification—never stop learning despite school suspension. Normally, classroom is the main place for school education, but now it is totally different. Online teaching is the only way in front of teachers and students, which has become a big challenge for them.

As a college English teacher, so far I've been engaged in this task for more than one month. It is the first time for me to sit and talk at home before a computer to give a live streaming lesson. It's really a tough job because of its expectations. In the process of online teaching, many things, good or bad, will happen unexpectedly. Efficient teaching methods, quiet teaching environment, convenient teaching tools, proper teaching resources, students' control, their tests, and even the internet are all that we should concern about. At the beginning, I was unwilling to accept the online method, but now I feel like I have adapted myself to such a new way. The big change actually comes from the efforts I've made, the help of the school and the whole teaching team, as well as the cooperation of students. In fact, the main purpose for college English teaching remains the same, no matter where and how the class is given. What teachers should do is still to seek the best way of how to teach efficiently. Here based on my own experiences and other teachers' research, I'd like to summarize and rethink online college English teaching activities carried out during this period.

2. Features of online English teaching

First of all, it is necessary to correctly understand online English teaching during the pandemic of 2020. Schools are closed temporarily, so teachers and students cannot go back to school. They must stay at home and learn at home. Under such a special circumstance, the large-scale online English teaching emerges. Like traditional classroom teaching, it is still an everyday practice, and the principle is still the combination of theory and practice. Actually, teachers will give a live streaming lesson before a computer or a smart phone, like website celebrities, the features of online teaching, however, are quite different.

Online English teachers are not website anchors. The process is different. The former focus on the participation of the "audience", namely the students, under a quiet and serious condition. But the latter aim at selling products to the audience through their demonstration and performance in a noisy circumstance. In the teaching process, teachers are not required to talk about texts, words, sentences and stories. They need to guide students what to do before and in the class, and then analyze what to

achieve after class in order to improve students' comprehensive English ability. In the process of teaching, based on appropriate teaching resources, teachers are designer, organizer and reviewer of students' learning activities. And students are supposed to participate in the class, absorb knowledge and apply those resources so as to learn English efficiently and better their English skills.

Online English teaching has some obvious features. It aims at promoting web-based efficient learning through all kinds of online digital resources. Teachers need to adopt specific teaching measures according to different online teaching activities, and accordingly keep records, collect responses, make evaluation as well.

Online English teaching is new for teachers, but to some extent, it is definitely a good way for its time saving and energy saving. So what teachers should do is not being scared and anxious, but being confronted with this challenge, make good preparation and make full use of it.

3. Summary of how to carry out online college English teaching efficiently

Traditional teaching can cover four basic elements—teaching purpose, teaching contents, teaching methods and teaching evaluation. So does online teaching. At present, what matters is concerning about whether the class can be given smoothly and whether the class can be fulfilled efficiently. In order to achieve such teaching purposes, teachers should concern more about the following four parts.

3.1 What to teach

First, teachers should ensure what to teach. There are various online resources, platforms and systems for English reading, listening, speaking, writing and translating. On one hand, students can easily access their electronic textbook and do preview and review work according to teachers' everyday plans. On the other hand, facing such a large number of online resources, how to choose, how to deal with and how to activate them are tough problems for teachers. For example, teachers can share with students MOOCs website related to textbook, collect their responses and then explain what students think is difficult in the live streaming class. And teachers can also choose some resources for students' after-class self-study to learn something new. In fact, according to the course plan, what teachers need to do is to access the resources when they are helpful and convenient, and make the courseware when it is essential and not complete.

Certainly, teamwork is necessary. Teachers can work together and share their good ideas, which is efficient and time-saving. Facing different students, teachers only need to make some adjustment and choose suitable methods. All in all, based on teaching program, online English teaching can be carried out according to every class and every teacher. And these online resources can be integrated and applied comprehensively.

3.2 What to achieve

Second, teachers should ensure the teaching purpose. College English teaching aims at skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, translating and communicating. The purpose for online English teaching can be adjusted due to its own advantages and disadvantages. For example, in the live streaming class, oral practice may not be easily obtained because sometimes there is no or poor internet in some remote areas and the voice may not be clear. So this oral part can be decreased relatively. For the parts of words, passages and cultures, teachers can share more with students. Based on its peculiar characteristics and the special period, online English teaching can focus on students' professional skills training, such as capacity for critical thinking and network writing for commenting, posting, bloggers and so on. Students can learn how to explain the COVID-19, comment on current news reports and argue for different virus defense policies adopted in different countries. In this way, online resources can be activated and employed fully by teachers and students. Also, during this period of studying at home, students' capacity for self-study can be improved. So what matters is that teachers should make sure what they want to achieve and what can be achieved.

3.3 How to teach

Third, teachers need to ensure how to carry out teaching activities. The main principle for college English teaching is students-oriented. Teachers only play a role of organizing and leading. They should avoid talking for a long time and should focus on students' output activities.

In the process of online teaching, students are staying at home which is so familiar to them and it is not a serious place for learning. Many things can interrupt students' learning. And frequently they will become bored and absent-minded. Given this situation, teachers need to supervise students' learning in time. Sometimes learning time taken from the online platform can be shown to students in order to remind and encourage them. Online sign-in function also can be a good choice. In the live streaming class, teachers can design some quiz and question answering. Answers can be shown by internet voting, text and voice messages. Moreover, teachers can carry out interaction and presentation in a small online group. Students can vote for those with best performance or use thumb-up function. By this means, not only teachers can get useful feedback and accordingly prepare for the next class, but also students can get the sense of participation and achievement. For online teaching, emotional encouragement is really essential.

Finally, teachers should ensure teaching methods as well. In the aspect of teaching theories, teachers can make full use of second language learning theories, such as noticing hypothesis and scaffolding. For example, facing various online learning resources, students may be confused and refuse to pay attention to them, let alone learn and absorb knowledge from them. So teachers should guide the students and make them pay close attention to resources that is related to teaching contents. Only if students are attracted, they will be willing to participate in the class and learn efficiently. Meanwhile in the aspect of specific ways, teachers can choose favorite, familiar and convenient ones. What matters is to promote online teaching based on teaching plans.

Here are some suggestions for online college English teaching. Choose a quiet and convenient place at home and that will be the "classroom". Put books and dictionaries at hand. It's better for teachers to give a model class ahead of time in a small group in order to check whether the equipment can work well. And alternative teaching plans are necessary here. Though teachers are talking with their computers, both students and classroom have actually been put in their heart. If teachers are well prepared, students can get the fact that teachers afar are still trying their best to help them. In this way, teachers and students can as usual get along well with each other and enjoy English class together.

4. Reflection on online college English teaching

During more than one-month online teaching, some things are achieved and some things are neglected. More efforts should be taken for further progress. The following is what teachers need to consider more in the future.

Teaching is required to follow the principle——students as the theme, teachers as the leader. Students are the participants of teaching activities. What teachers do is to guide students to learn efficiently. For online college English teaching, how to guide students become more essential, because a large number of online resources can easily make students confused and anxious. They worry about how to choose the resource, where to begin their study, how to complete the task, how to follow the teacher and how to pass the exam, which will lead to their passive emotion in process of learning if problems are not resolved in time. Therefore, teachers should pay more attention to students emotional factors and give them help as much as possible. For example, pre-class task list can be offered to students and it should cover more details so that students know how to preview the text, what is the important words and grammar, and how to do their self-study.

How to carry out online test more reasonably is another problem teacher should consider. Online test is a kind of remote test, which is difficult for teachers to control. In an article, Xu Tao once mentioned that any teaching without tests and evaluation is not education, but the same thing as dumping garbage or radio broadcasts. Hence how to carry out scientific, reasonable and fair test, and

how to supervise students efficiently should be attached greater importance. Despite difficulties, tests are still indispensable for online teaching.

As language learners, we know that language learning is to communicate better with it and it is an integrated process of the input and the output of language. How to create language environment for students to meet the demand of communication, how to organize remote interaction and how to guide students output accurately are still the key points.

5. Conclusion

In a conclusion, online college English teaching has both advantages and disadvantages. Teachers should treat it dialectically. On one hand, online teaching can offer abundant resources, such as MOOCs, I-talk and I-test, which can be helpful for teaching and learning. On the other hand, many tough problems always emerge in the process of online teaching, such as environmental interruption, concentration decline, network connection, test reliability and self-discipline control.

Nowadays it is an era of internet. With the develop of technology, online teaching is bound to become the main teaching method someday in the future. Now to some extent, it is a good chance for teachers to experience and explore such a way. And it is also a good chance for teachers to look at traditional classroom teaching from a new perspective. They should work together to form an online community. With further efforts, online resources can be better integrated, experience can be better shared, information can be better connected and the relationship between teachers, teachers and students, different platforms can be better improved. Teachers should manage to make research on students and analyze their demands and learning conditions so as to arouse and enhance the learning interest and motivation of students. By this means, teaching and learning efficiently in the process of online college English teaching is certain to be achieved.

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