

# The role of English Language & Literature in cultivating students' language ability

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**Abstract:** Since the reform and opening up, there have been more and more exchanges between China and other countries in economy, culture and politics. English has become an important language for China's foreign exchange. At present, China needs a large number of Communicative English talents. In the past English teaching, because teachers have been influenced by the traditional education model for a long time, they put too much emphasis on theoretical indoctrination in English knowledge, but ignored the cultivation of students' English language practical ability, resulting in the phenomenon that students' English language ability is generally poor. In the new development period, we should attach importance to the effective use of English Language & Literature, so as to continuously improve the effect of college English teaching. The study of English Language & Literature is not only to cultivate students with correct political orientation, good moral cultivation and healthy psychological quality, but also to cultivate a group of talents who have all-round development in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Therefore, under the new curriculum reform, English Language & Literature has been added. In this regard, this paper discusses the components of students' language ability and the role of English language culture in cultivating students' language ability.

## 1. Introduction

English literature, like our Chinese literature, is the crystallization of knowledge and culture inherited from thousands of years of history, and plays an extremely important role in the exchange of history among countries around the world. The process of communication is inseparable from the global official language, and the country's demand for foreign language talents continues to rise. The purpose of learning English Language & Literature is to help students understand the history of English-speaking countries and related works, stimulate their learning enthusiasm in contact, and then improve their development of language ability. Judging from the current situation of English Language & Literature teaching, the instructional methods and instructional modes are contrary to the training objectives required by English majors, and teachers have failed to dig out the role of English Language & Literature in improving students' language ability. Therefore, to improve the effect of English teaching, we should innovate ideas, attach importance to the improvement of students' English literature literacy while paying attention to students' mastery of basic English knowledge, analyze the composition of students' language ability, and better explain the role of English Language & Literature on students' language ability. Students should not only know the meaning of the English language, but also understand the implied meaning of the English language, so that students can have a higher level of English application.

## 2. The relationship between English Language & Literature and language ability

### 2.1 Elements of language competence in English Language & Literature

The first is the basic knowledge. For the use of English, if you want to skillfully use English, you must accumulate rich basic language knowledge. Only in this way can students apply the basic language knowledge accumulated at ordinary times to English communication, so as to effectively cultivate students' English language ability [1]. For the basic knowledge of language, it is mainly

composed of lexical knowledge and syntax, that is to say, how to make a reasonable composition of simple and complex sentences. Only by helping students to master the specific syntax can students express sentences in English according to the corresponding methods, thus improving their English language application ability.

The second is communication skills. After comprehensively mastering the basic knowledge of English language, students can improve their ability to use English to a certain extent, so that they can initially use English to communicate. For English language communication, the process is very complicated. Even the same English sentence may have different expressions and even different meanings under different people or different occasions [2]. In order to convey the feelings to the other party appropriately from the context of English, we must express our feelings to the other party in this way.

Rhetoric is also an important component of English language ability. Only through the application of rhetoric can we ensure the smooth development of language communication and achieve the desired effect [3]. It can be said that the use of rhetorical devices can enable students to make more accurate English expression in language communication, so that their views, emotions and thoughts can be accurately presented with the help of English expression, so as to bring stronger spiritual resonance to the listener and improve the appeal of English language to the listener.

Also attach importance to the taboo points in language expression. Language is an important tool used by people to express their emotions. When people use language to communicate, in addition to the influence of context, cultural background also affects language communication [4]. Once the two sides of communication are in different cultural backgrounds, it is bound to make them unable to have a comprehensive understanding of each other's cultural background differences, which will cause great difficulties in language communication between the two sides, and even lead to many misunderstandings, which will have a great impact on the effect of language communication. The constituent elements of language competence in English Language & Literature are shown in Figure 1:



Figure 1 Elements of language competence in English Language & Literature

## 2.2 The importance of English Language & Literature to the cultivation of students' language ability

First of all, learning English Language & Literature can help students understand more communication examples of English language, and take these communication examples as imitation subjects, so that students can improve their English language ability in the process of continuous imitation and expression. English literature also contains many language communication skills, which can help students choose the most appropriate sentences in different contexts, thus improving their English language ability to a certain extent [5]. By learning English Language & Literature, students can have a clear understanding of the differences between eastern and Western cultures, so

as to understand the differences of different languages in the application process, so that students can properly express the English language in combination with the corresponding cultural background.

Secondly, for English Language & Literature, the basic knowledge of English, English communication skills, and English rhetoric contained in their literary works can broaden students' horizons [6]. When learning English Language & Literature, students can understand and learn English language knowledge in context, and then have a more thorough understanding and cognition of English language, thus further expanding students' English language knowledge, effectively improving students' English language application ability and accumulating more language skills in English communication.

In addition, learning English Language & Literature can enrich students' expression in English language. Learning English Language & Literature can greatly enrich students' vocabulary in English learning. The writing styles and genres of English Language & Literature works are different, which also makes them very different in English expression. Learning these works can make students more diverse in English language expression and greatly improve students' ability of flexible expression of English language [7].

### **3. Ways to cultivate students' language ability through English Language & Literature**

#### **3.1 Improve students' basic English language ability**

First of all, we should improve the basic ability of students' English language and increase the understanding of grammatical words by improving the amount of reading. For English beginners, the lack of language environment and grammatical structure will completely affect future communication. Therefore, they must have a large amount of vocabulary and grammar reserves to promote the development of their language ability in the process of learning English Language & Literature [8]. Usually, mastering enough vocabulary determines how handy you are in dealing with English-related problems, and it is also a prerequisite for effectively improving students' reading and analysis ability. For learners who regard English as a second language, reading the original English works with classic sentence patterns, elegant wording, idiomatic words and moving plots, tasting the charm and absorbing the essence can undoubtedly cultivate their language sense and improve their ability to write English articles [9]. Teachers can share a certain classic line in the English Language & Literature course with the students, and let the students think about the relevant learning problems around the classic lines, so as to cultivate students' correct analysis and inquiry awareness of the English Language & Literature course. Guide students to learn some rhetorical devices and translation skills in English Language & Literature courses, correctly grasp the overall connotation of English literature works, and absorb more learning essence from them.

#### **3.2 Cultural background of learning English Language & Literature**

If you want to know the meaning of a language, you should start from the cultural and historical background of the language. If you want to have a more comprehensive understanding of the English cultural background, you can also look for it from English movies. For example, you can see the protagonist's daily life and customs from an excellent film, just as this person lives next to every viewer, and will have a deep impression on the cultural background of the city where the protagonist was located at that time. Teachers can master the comprehensive abilities in these aspects by explaining English classics in detail and helping students deeply understand and learn literary works [10]. In order to deal with the problems of word order and structure in reading, students must master certain translation methods and put them into a lot of practice, so that students' translation ability will naturally be exercised. The knowledge of various fields involved in literary works, the cultural customs of various regions, the background of the times and other information will make people's eyes shine, constantly challenge the narrow cognition of learners, and enrich their minds and hearts in the immersion.

### 3.3 Develop good reading and expression habits

In English reading, students must master basic abilities such as perception and innovation, and learn to modify reading information independently, so as to improve their English reading literacy. Under the influence of culture, learning is an important foundation for fundamentally enhancing interest in English reading, and it is also beneficial for students to analyze and excavate the deep-seated content contained in English reading materials [11]. It is very necessary to cultivate good reading habits if you want to quickly improve your English reading level. It can change the original incorrect reading habits and continuously improve the reading efficiency of English. Teachers can also gradually get rid of the traditional English reading instructional mode and innovate more. The instructional method of English reading adopts the instructional mode of student-centered and teacher-assisted, highlighting the dominant position of students in teaching. In the teaching process of English Language & Literature, the ability of language expression is improved in interpersonal communication.

If you want to really learn English Language & Literature well, you should establish self-confidence, consciously train your speaking ability, and don't miss the opportunity to practice expression because you are afraid of making mistakes [12]. English language learning is inseparable from listening, speaking, reading and writing. Therefore, students are encouraged to attach importance to accumulating and reading a lot in their usual study, and then make comprehensible imitation, and finally make self-improvement creation.

### 4. Conclusions

English Language & Literature can not only improve students' language ability, but also cultivate students' cultural literacy and aesthetic taste. The introduction of English Language & Literature in English teaching can greatly improve students' English language ability. English language and culture is very important to cultivate students' language ability. It can not only improve students' language ability, but also let students have a good and healthy psychological quality through the study of language and culture. English Language & Literature course contains many chapters and knowledge contents with strong plot. In English Language & Literature teaching activities, teachers should not only impart language skills to students, but also guide students to understand foreign customs, etc., in order to establish cross-cultural awareness, combined with local cultural customs and historical background in English-speaking countries, so that students can experience It helps students to master more knowledge of English language and culture, and provides a broader stage for students to better adapt to the requirements of social development.

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