# Innovation of College Students' English Translation Skills Training Mode Based on the Optimization of Translation Ability

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**Keywords:** Translation ability; English translation; Skill training; Model innovation

**Abstract:** At present, there is a great demand for high-quality translation talents in China, and universities are the main way to train translation talents. However, after research, it is found that there are still many problems in the process of English-Chinese translation, so the actual English-Chinese translation level has not reached the expected goal. Only by continuously innovating the teaching mode of college English translation, combining with the current information technology and continuously optimizing the course system of college English translation, can the teaching quality of college English translation be improved accordingly. This paper will focus on expounding and analyzing the basic situation of translation ability and college English translation teaching mode, and put forward corresponding corrective measures for related teaching.

#### 1. Introduction

College English is of great significance to improve college students' basic English level, and English-Chinese translation is an important module in college English translation. The scale of training translation talents for English majors in colleges and universities cannot meet the needs of the society, and translation teaching for non-English majors has not attracted much attention [1]. Although the level of college English teaching in China has been greatly improved at present, the relevant teaching mode is not particularly mature in English translation teaching, which restricts the improvement of students' English translation level. Under this background, China focuses on cultivating college students with high English translation level to meet the needs of the future society, so innovating English teaching and improving college students' English application ability have become the main direction of reforming English teaching in colleges and universities [2]. In recent years, in the reform of college English teaching, translation, as one of the skills of language application, has been neglected because of its high esteem for listening and speaking ability, and translation is one of the ultimate goals of language learning. Therefore, it is particularly important to improve the translation ability of contemporary college students.

## 2. Problems in College English Translation at Present

## 2.1 Lack of cultivation of students' translation ability in English class

At present, most English classes in colleges and universities in China adopt the traditional teaching mode, and teachers neglect the cultivation of students' translation ability in class, preferring to examine students' vocabulary mastery. At the same time, it pays too much attention to the development of theoretical teaching and neglects the important position of English translation teaching in college English teaching. That is to say, the teacher speaks above and the students listen below. In this "spoon-feeding" teaching mode, teachers are the leader of the classroom, students passively accept knowledge, and lack of interaction between teachers and students, which obliterates the interest and initiative of college students in learning English translation [3]. Foreign language teaching has always focused on the cultivation of "listening, speaking, reading and writing", but paid

little attention to the cultivation of translation ability. Because translation teaching has always been light, its proportion is very small. In the traditional college English teaching process, the teaching aim is to enable students to achieve excellent results in the actual examination process and successfully pass CET-4 and CET-6. The higher the passing rate, the higher the teaching ability and classroom teaching level of teachers. In this case, many students translate word for word. Even if students have sufficient vocabulary and solid grammar knowledge, the translated content is very blunt. This kind of translation practice is not conducive to the improvement of students' translation skills.

## 2.2 Attach importance to the teaching of theoretical knowledge and neglect the cultivation of language communication ability

The emergence of any language and its characters has its cultural soil. Learning a language is inseparable from studying its culture. If you leave the study of cultural translation, you will lose your foundation and become a passive water and a rootless tree. Due to the influence of traditional teaching mode, in the development of college English teaching, English translation teaching only stays at the level of theoretical knowledge teaching. Influenced by the previous teaching thinking, students generally believe that words and grammar are the key points in learning English, but if students want to really improve their English application ability, they should pay attention to learning English translation skills [4]. Based on these situations, colleges and universities generally pay little attention to English translation teaching, and even some colleges and universities have "no textbooks, no exams, no teachers, no students". In English learning, college students tend to learn English vocabulary and cultivate their reading ability. In translation, they often choose other ways to complete it, or the teachers themselves translate it, which is not conducive to cultivating college students' overall English translation ability and level. Moreover, at present, many colleges and universities lack professional foreign teachers, and teachers teach in Chinese, which is not conducive to students' understanding of daily spoken English, resulting in some students having problems in translation ability.

## 2.3 Teaching methods and ideas are backward

Teaching methods and concepts generally have a serious adverse impact on the final quality of college English classroom teaching [5]. There is a common phenomenon in college campuses. Many students can't understand and comprehend the historical and cultural allusions quoted by foreign teachers in the process of communicating with foreign teachers. At present, due to the limitations of various factors, universities have not established a corresponding platform for English translation practice, which leads to students only staying at the theoretical level when learning relevant translation knowledge. In this case, college students have very little classroom time to learn English. Only English majors have more classroom time to learn English and offer specialized English translation courses. As a result, students' translation knowledge comes from regular courses, but there is a lack of professional teaching, which leads to great problems in English translation. Moreover, due to the low score of translation in the examination, the emphasis on translation ability and the improvement of translation quality are neglected. An excellent foreign language translation teacher not only needs to have dual abilities in both mother tongue and foreign language, but also needs a lot of translation practice and related professional knowledge, which requires higher teachers' ability and professional quality [6].

## 3. The Importance of Translation Skills Training in Classroom Teaching

#### 3.1 Translation skills training helps to improve reading ability

Translation requires a more accurate and thorough understanding than reading. Students' understanding rate in translation exceeds the general reading requirements. Students must apply the grammar knowledge they have learned to the analysis of long and difficult sentences. The traditional teaching model has gradually failed to meet the needs of the times. Therefore, in order to innovate and

develop English translation teaching, it is necessary to make full use of network resources to build a complete English teaching system. Numerous studies have shown that in face-to-face communication, only 35% of the social content of information is verbal behavior, and the rest is transmitted by nonverbal behavior [7]. Through classroom face-to-face, autonomous learning and online platform, students can understand translation theory and skills, strengthen English and Chinese language learning, experience different types of translation processes, and use specific translation methods to solve various translation problems under the guidance of teachers, thus gradually improving their translation ability. Pay attention to the translation order of clauses and main sentences. For example, in the translation of strong sentences in English, we must pay attention to the contents to be emphasized. Only in this way can we avoid the inversion of sentence structure in translation.

#### 3.2 It is conducive to improving students' writing ability

In the process of English learning and translation, college students often choose Chinese thinking mode, which is not conducive to integrating English sentence types. In order to cultivate students' translation ability, colleges and universities must pay attention to the setting of English translation courses. In the training of translation skills, especially in Chinese-English translation, it is the training of how to express Chinese into authentic English. In this process, we should compare the different structural features of English and Chinese. Therefore, students need to communicate with their classmates in various ways and talk about their own experiences. The process of communication and cooperation enables them to understand each other, help each other, overcome difficulties and share achievements. A sentence is a translated sentence composed of words. First of all, it is necessary to understand the meaning of every word that makes up a sentence. If you encounter unfamiliar words in the process of translation, you will no doubt be unable to translate the sentence accurately. Through English translation teaching, teachers can have a clear grasp and evaluation of students' English level and their understanding of relevant English knowledge points, and inform students of translation principles and skills in movies, so as to continuously improve students' written English translation ability [8]. In addition, teachers should play some audio materials properly to encourage students to learn oral English translation and improve their comprehensive English translation ability.

#### 3.3 Improve English listening and speaking ability

At present, the teaching mode of college English translation is relatively old, which mainly follows the previous teaching mode of translation. In the teaching process, teachers mainly teach, ignoring the dominant position of students. In the process of translation, the transformation of English and Chinese makes students familiar with the structural differences and cultural connotations of English and Chinese, which is helpful to realize cross-cultural communication between the two languages. Offering specialized English not only makes college students feel the effectiveness of English learning, but also provides convenience for students to further study. In this process, students have mastered other aspects of English ability, and in this large number of translation exercises, students can master the law of English and Chinese language transformation, which further trains students' English expression thinking [9]. If you want to translate accurately, you should not only understand the meaning of words, but also understand the grammar and structure of sentences. In the process of translation, we often encounter some special grammars or sentences with strong sentences, inverted sentences, ellipsis sentences, attributive clauses, and ambiguous questions. It plays a very positive role in cultivating students' interest in English translation, improving students' English translation level and promoting the all-round development of students' comprehensive quality.

#### 4. Innovative Strategies of College Students' English Translation Skills Training Model

## **4.1 Innovative teaching methods**

Based on the requirement of accuracy and fluency in translation, it is difficult to convert information between Chinese and English languages, which mainly depends on the similarity or

difference between the target language model and the mother tongue model. Therefore, universities should constantly update the college English translation curriculum system, and apply the updated college English translation curriculum system to practical teaching practice as soon as possible, so that students can not only firmly grasp the corresponding basic knowledge of translation, but also learn more professional English translation. College students should be encouraged to spare enough time every day to consolidate and expand their vocabulary, and to strengthen their review and consolidate their previous vocabulary. Besides the correct learning method, the attitude of learning Chinese characters is also very important. From a popular point of view, English translation is actually a way of code conversion between English and Chinese. Translation is also a process of understanding, transmitting, expressing and correcting information. When teachers explain translation lessons, the content should not be limited to books. Multimedia projection can be used to show some English films for students to translate, which can be carried out by means of group cooperation. College English teachers should carry out college English translation teaching based on the improvement of translation ability, so as to better explore students' thinking ability and change the traditional working mode and method of English translation teaching.

### 4.2 Focus on the teaching of English reading materials

Although college English translation teaching has some limitations, it is very beneficial for students to master language knowledge. In actual English translation teaching, English teachers should make full use of existing teaching resources to help students. Schools can invite special foreign teachers to explain translation knowledge to students, and increase the examination of translation knowledge in the examination items, and cultivate their correct translation habits in addition to the examination of sentence patterns. In autonomous learning, students lay a good foundation of Chinese, master the knowledge of English language and culture, and read books in various subjects. The level of Chinese and English not only affects the understanding of the source language, but also involves the expression of the target language, which has a decisive influence on the translation process. This makes it possible for students to talk naturally in authentic English in future foreign exchanges, and to understand foreigners' expressions, so as to truly achieve zero communication. For example, in the teaching of English translation class, the teacher can recommend the application of Google software or related Chinese-English translation software to the students, and then divide the students into several groups and give each group different translation contents, so that the students can get more accurate and smooth translation contents by means of the software or discussion among the team members. Providing more opportunities for students to practice English translation is of great positive significance to improve students' oral and written English translation.

### 4.3 Combining multimedia teaching, innovating English communicative teaching mechanism

With the increasing application of "internet plus" technology in college English translation teaching, related technologies are applied in the actual teaching process. In the teaching process, teachers can help college students build up their confidence in learning English well by enumerating the examples of previous students. In the process of translation teaching, teachers can expand the content of translation teaching and help students cultivate cross-cultural awareness. Before cross-cultural communication, students must have a basic understanding of the cultural content, customs and religious beliefs of other countries. Teachers demonstrate and explain various translation strategies in multimedia network classrooms, and students practice repeatedly to complete them; At the same time, through autonomous learning and interactive communication, students are required to do a lot of translation practice on the network translation teaching platform after class. As we all know, language is the carrier of culture and a special form of culture. English translation is to convert English into Chinese or Chinese into English. In this process, Chinese culture and Western culture are transferred to each other. By watching more British and American movies and TV plays, we can ponder the grammar and structure of English sentences, familiarize ourselves with the language environment and learn cultural knowledge. Innovating the whole teaching environment

under the influence of "internet plus" has a very positive impact on students' acquisition of relevant knowledge of English translation and improvement of comprehensive ability of English translation.

## 4.4 Develop micro-course resources and build a practical platform for college English translation

With the continuous development of modern information technology, it is possible to build a practical platform for college English translation. When designing translation test questions, we should make clear the test objectives, key points, subjects' levels and other factors, so as to make the translation test questions diversified, scientific, and highly targeted. Combining language and culture closely with English translation teaching can improve students' insight into culture. Teachers can give students some small examples in actual teaching, so as to enhance students' awareness of cultural differences. Teachers or students can discuss, study, publish and share their translation results and knowledge and information in the learning process in time. Teachers can track students' learning situation at any time and give learning guidance and feedback suggestions in time. Therefore, in the actual translation process, we must fully consider the religious and cultural differences in different countries, understand the daily communication methods in western countries, and avoid making jokes in the translation process.

## 5. Summary

The overall English translation ability of contemporary college students is weak, which is related to students themselves, education mode, examination questions, cultural differences and social atmosphere. With the arrival of the "internet plus" era, if college English translation education is to achieve long-term and effective development, it is necessary to innovate the teaching mode of English translation in college by combining the internet-related technologies, and on this basis, continuously improve students' comprehensive ability of English translation. Therefore, translation teaching for English majors should be oriented to cultivate their application ability. Through the practice of teaching, more students can benefit from the cultivation of professional ability, and can participate in employment more easily and integrate into society.

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