

Study on Cultivation of Learners' Multicultural Competence from the Perspective of Cultural Confidence

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Abstract: Cultural competence is one significant components in cultivating learners' ability in language application, it is a shortcut to strengthen learners cognitive ability and set up the awareness of both Chinese and Western culture in cultural communication. This paper aims to analyze the significance, problems in culture learning, and way out for setting up learners' confidence in Chinese culture as a useful transmitter in cross-cultural communication.

1. Introduction

With the complement of walk out strategy of Chinese culture, it requires a high standard for university students in using English, strengthening and improving students' overall competence in cross-culture communication are firstly required. According to the National Outline of Long Term Innovation and Development for Education, goal for English learning is to cultivate students' abilities in applying language to a higher, vocational, comprehensive quality (2010). students need cultivate their multi-cultural competence, including the ability of distinguishing Chinese and English culture, establishing the culture confidence in traditional culture, serve the world in cross-culture communication.

2. Significance in Cultivating the Cultural Competence

Cross-culture communication originated in the 1950s, which got rapidly developed in the 20 years in China. It concerns different fields, mixing psychology, anthology, linguistics, culturology and sociology together. ^[1] So, cultivating students' cultural competence can make them more completed, perfect and well-rounded as English learners. students are the pillar of future China, if they establish the idea about culture communication, having cultural eyes in applying English language, they will be much intellectual and wise as a language learner. If students, the young generation can inherit the traditional culture, which created and shaped by our ancestor will be transmitted in sequence, making Chinese culture live long, serve the people, serve the world.

3. Necessity for Cultivating Students' Cultural Competence

3.1 As a way of enhancing in language learning

Cultural communication is some kind of comprehensive activities. It can create new elements mutually for culture while exchange with foreign culture. Chinese culture remains a strong life from the ancient times, it has widespread field in art, construction, medicine, education and so on. Besides the differences of English and Chinese, difficulties in communication in China and Western countries are mostly about the culture and its value (2006, Dodd) ^[2]. some courses like *cross-culture communication, comparison in China and Western culture, A survey of English-speaking country* are frequently adopted materials. which will be quite useful in grasping the culture between Chinese and Western countries. But, that is just learning in the classroom, learning is interrupted by many other factors, learners can not master them fully. Actually, culture is another necessary component in language learning.

3.2 As a way of facilitating students self-developing

Wang Shouren (2013) put, English learning need scaffold students to insight into the world, extent their horizon, understand the western civilizations^[3]. such as thinking way and living habit and other indispensable elements related with communication. China has been a country with grand culture after UK and US (Wen Qiufang,2012)^[4]. learning and inheriting Chinese culture can be another vital element for self-improving in language learning.

When one senses the deep meaning of a set phrases, sayings, proverbs, even taboo in conversation with foreigners, it is rather easy to reach the goal for communication. If they are properly cultivated they can intellectually enough to understand the special meaning in western culture, communication can be accomplished.

4. Problems in Cultivating the Cultural Competence

4.1 Culture in English-speaking countries ignored.

One serious problem is that Students and teachers are not sensible in culture. learners only learn basic knowledge without the systematic recognition of culture in communication, In the coursebook, geography, weather, customs, festivals, ideal, religion, a crucial part for culture in two languages, but it only serves as a minor part for students to practice and prepare test. Many useful information is included in the coursebooks but they aren't regarded as compulsory courses, content couldn't be arranged logically, time and energy are cut down in learning, which leading to decrease of learners synthetical recognition of western culture. Cultural competence can strengthen students' cognitive awareness and deepen their recognition of human's life (Zhen Shutang,2017.6).^[5] International condition challenges students to enhance the cultural competence and improve the awareness of multi-culture in cross-cultural communication.

The open world needs more talents in different field to take the cultural mission in communication, but students are confined into the narrow field, not fully knowing what cultures are about, although they learn much to deal with variety of tests, storing enough vocabulary and elements in language.

4.2 Culture in China ignored.

China are facing many challenges in the competing world, with the rapid development in science and technology, economic benefit are put on the top of changing living conditions, some traditional culture are becoming less significant in people's life, and people pursue things that can bring benefits, foreign culture are surging into our markets because of the open door policy, and transportation provide people with easy access to things worldwide, which lead to decrease in our traditional festival, forget our customs, even beliefs and our duty. People blindly love overseas commodities, and don't have the awareness that the world is developing, and china are becoming stronger.

Students are so curious about the exotic culture, love their commodities, things range from high technology to daily life, for instances, they have no interest in everything that is made in China, and blindly purchase things via network, cosmetics on websites of Korea, books on Amazon, foods from everywhere except China. Furthermore, some students would rather go abroad and get a master degree in a year's learning than stay at homeland to read three years for the degree. We can't scold students who are striving to pursue exotic things, we can't complain why they leave homeland to learn, but we can have our own cultural confidence in our mind. Since China, a nation who beautifies the whole world for its wisdom from ancient times. Even now, 65 percent daily items are made in China when I made a rough investigation as overseas visiting scholar in UK in 2014. Seeing the colorful, cheap and popular goods made in China are exhibited in the shop, I feel so proud.

4.3 Social circumstances and current affairs ignored.

Students are lack of social experiences and often break away from the outer world, they don't

know what kind of talents are needed in global market, they are ignorant of newest information, they only know language rules, grammar and vocabulary, however, while they talk with native speakers, they can't express clearly and understand the speakers. Why? They can't understand their culture and don't know the newest topic happen in the world. So, ignorance in current affairs just like we are alien to the foreign culture, a hinder for understanding the deep meaning in communication.

In reality, it is quite passive to cultivate students cross-culture competence. Books as compulsory or elective ones are adopted in most of universities, but *one factor is that* students are busy in their credits and accomplish their learning career. They have no consciousness of improving their culture competence in learning, lack of cognitive awareness and learn them reluctantly, they don't know what is happening out of the class, don't know the Belt Road, don't know what is significant in bilateral relationships, don't know culture is the decisive factor and inner demands in future job markets. So, improving students' cultural competence is the problem needed to settle with open eyes.

5. Measures for Cultivating Learners' Cultural Competence

Culture is the basis and soul for a country. Learners are successor of Chinese culture and can transmit them in intercultural communication. So, in learning and cultivating students Attitude toward culture are mainly concern are: (1) Learners need to set up proper outlook for life. (2) Love Chinese traditional culture as an inheritor and transmitter. (3) Combining Chinese traditional culture with advanced western culture. (4) cultivate awareness and confidence in Chinese traditional culture. The specific measures concern with students' cultural competence in learning mainly are as follows:

It is the first step for learners of English to understand culture in English-speaking countries. Generally, we often learn basic information about politics, administration, geography, climate, people and food, religion, customs, education etc. Geography and climate can shape people's thoughts, while customs and religion determine the main belief in mind and daily behavior. So, its vital to explore them to release the difficulties and obstacles in communication.

For this part, it's the basic knowledge for learners in learning English, such as, if one wants to communicate with British, its quite vital to know royal culture. The monarchy in UK influence many aspects of people's life, especially tourism, large number of visitors are attracted by the royal palace, castles etc. the queen, her Majesty, who owns the magnificent palace in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Welsh, each of them is an attraction and marvel for architecture.

The other aspects are people, Scottish, Welsh, English and Northern Island. And if one can explore more thoroughly, Scotland, a quite different land that man wears short skirt. Housing, low and small, cozy house are their favorite, because the humid weather, so warm and comfort are the number one for the shelter. Holidays, during the holidays, some shops are closed, its inconvenient to live. Food and drinks, taboo. In UK, the banks of English, Scotland, North Ireland have their own currency, notes and coins. If one knows that it is convenient to communicate and live in UK.

Cultivation of culture competence is the foundation for foreign language learners.^[6] China has a long history in many dynasties, such as Qin Dynasty, Han Dynasty, Tang Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty, which made splendid contribution to the world civilization, and a solid basis for Chinese development in politics and economy, we are proud of civilization and culture created by our ancestor over 5000 years ago. So, mastering the old and new culture, cultivating students' cognitive competence in sense of pride and patriotism are keys in Chinese culture for learners. The basic task is to cultivate learners' confidence in culture learning. But in recent years, a strong tide for admiring and imitating foreign culture flood over university campus.

In fact, it is a common phenomenon that the youth love fresh things, some of them now are forgetting our own culture and turn to pursue the foreign culture in daily life, even though some of them are just for fun, for example, people decorate or make a relaxing atmosphere in Valentines' Day or in Christmas. We Chinese are the manufacturer of the world and beautify the world since the earlier history, for instances, our silk, clothes, tea, china, paper-making, calligraphy and drawings, etc. China are more advanced in manufacture for items in everyday life, it is unnecessary to buy

daily things from far away and purchase the name brand online. So, cultivating learners cultural competence, one key is to cultivate learners' strong belief in Chinese culture, have strong confidence in Chinese culture.

Local culture, shared by native people, is one part of Chinese culture, it likes a star shining in the sky. Some of them are traditional ones, some are folk ones. Because local cultures are neglected in the rapidly developing world, many local people take for granted their own culture, a serious result is that they are inclined to be lost in the world which is dominated by advanced technology.

Local culture often related with customs or festivals. It isn't as popular as the national ones, but it shines in the history since its big value, for example, papercutting, calligraphy and embroidery in rural area. These special arts are valuable, some of them went to the world by Silk Road many years ago, even now, they serve as the representatives in cultural communication and some Expo. Furthermore, different places have their way to celebrate the same festival, such as the Double Fifth festival, that day, people row dragon boat to celebrate in south China, but Zongzi are eaten in the north China. Ordinarily, learners are familiar with them, have strong feeling about it. so, cultivating students to love their local culture, it is a good for them to remember their hometown while they grow up and keep the sweet memory in their mind, it also benefits for transmitting them to their descendant generation after generation.

We are in a peaceful, colorful open world, but the society is changing rapidly. China are establishing our status and develop our economy through the Silk Road with countries in Europe, Africa, American and Australia and so on. These countries, which set up bond with China on land, in marine and by airliner, can benefit a lot. By the Road, China are striving for rejuvenating the strength and prosperity and to accomplish the Dream of China. Students who are communicator and transmitter of culture in the world stage, if he/she can effort to contribute to mutual understanding in cultural communication, that's the goal of learning English language. Culture is one vital component if the nation can survive in the globe, everybody can't live without the culture, it can influence everyone for their idea, thought, way of life for a lifelong time.

6. Conclusion

To cultivate the cultural competence is one of the components for learners' self-development. Learners need have a proper recognition in the traditional, local culture and foreign culture. All things combined can make a full man in language learning and communication.^[7] Cultural competence is obtained by participating activities and receiving education. culture is the soft power for the nation. Students take up the heavy responsibilities for our country, If spiritual culture and physical culture considered in learning, their view of culture can be a whole.

Human beings created culture and are shaped by culture, and we need to know that every culture need to be respected in the culture system. As President Xi says, each country no matter big or small, strong or weak, their thoughts and culture need to be respected. Then we can set up the correct ideal in culture communication, enhance development and prosperous in culture cause (Xi Jinping, 2017.3)^[8]

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