Innovative Research on the Teaching Methods of English Listening and Speaking Courses under the New Media Platform

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Abstract: Currently, it is not a new phenomenon that new media has seized people's attention successfully, for which links closely with the revolution and update of information. It combines information storage with dissemination, and has distinct and irreplaceable features and advantages. Transparently, new media has had a long-term and profound impact on people's life, especially work and study. In the field of education, the emergence of new media has provided tremendous opportunities for the transformation of many disciplines. This paper aims at elaborating the characteristics of new media and proposes some innovative approaches to the instruction of English listening and speaking course for English majors.

The term new media has been widely welcomed by the pubic these years, which is no longer unfamiliar with many people. Whereas it's not a simple matter to really make the definition of new media clear. In a certain sense, new media refers to the environment in which all things are existed. Therefore, it covers almost all digital media formats, including traditional TV, newspapers, networks, online media, mobile and digital media, etc.. The new media is interactive and timely, and it can spread a fertile bulk of information in a variety of forms between individuals and communities. With the development of science and technology together with the progress of the age, new media has caught more intense attentions from many industries. The continuous prosperity of new media has also aroused widespread concern in the academic field. Many scholars have conducted long-term systematic researches on the application of new media in the field of education and teaching, and even made many bold attempts. In general, it achieved remarkable achievements as new media has become a powerful aid in education and teaching field.

1. The characteristics of new media and its impact on traditional education

Traditional media is not as good as new media which has many advantages. First of all, new media has a novel form and a clear performance, for new media is a three-dimensional information dissemination carrier and means of communication, which combines various expressions such as sound, video and text. It utilizes color, light, shadow and text interactions to spread and present the plain content to the audience in a novel and distinct form. Secondly, the information technology of new media has a huge amount of information storage and centralized display. Finally, compared

with traditional media, new media has very powerful interactive features, which enables new media not only to passively display content, but also to achieve peer-to-peer communication and interactions between multiple parties.

These characteristics and advantages of new media make it have broad application prospects in the field of education and teaching. With the rapid development of new media technologies, the use of new media for education and teaching has been widely practiced in many schools. The use of new media technologies poses a huge challenge to traditional education and teaching in many aspects. English listening and speaking course, as a practical course, is being strongly attacked under this challenge. The new media technology is conducive to transforming the traditional educational concept of English listening and speaking classes, and promoting the changes in the teaching mode, teaching system, teaching content and methods of English listening and speaking. With the popularization of new media technology in and out of class, the teaching methods of English listening and speaking classes have been continuously improving. These are of great benefit to the implementation of quality education, for which can reduce the burden of students and stimulate their interest in learning. All in all, the impact of new media on traditional English listening and speaking classes can be summarized as follows:

1.1 Promoting the transformation of traditional teaching methods of English listening and speaking

Under the circumstance of new media, students' initiative can be fully guaranteed. Under the new media environment, students are able to participate in the cooperative and independent study. The new media provides a platform of network as the learning tool, which has ample learning resources, and students can make full use of the network to collect and sort the materials at their hands. This model breaks the rules of the traditional teacher-centered teaching method for English listening and speaking and highlights the student's subjective status. At the same time, new media technologies are also conducive to teachers and update their ideas. Today, with the rapid development of science and technology, teachers shoulder a special historical mission in cultivating students' innovative spirit and teachers should be innovative when doing so. If teachers lack innovative thinking, the discipline will lose its soul and motivation. The application of new media technology in education and teaching includes many cutting-edge scientific and technological achievements. To some extent, English listening and speaking course under the new media environment is a new concept course on the basis of information and network technologies. Extending to various fields such as communication and multimedia, teachers must fully integrate and improve their knowledge structure and broaden their horizons if they want to fully merge to English listening and speaking class under the new media. This process is a procedure of self-improvement and self-remodeling of English teachers, and it is also a process of enhancing teachers' self-innovation. This will deeply influence English teachers' comprehension of the education and teaching of English listening and speaking course in the new media environment at the ideological level. It is not only an extension of ideological understanding, but also an experience of practical action.

1.2 Optimizing classroom efficiency and improving teaching quality

The application of new media can effectively improve the display and interaction of teaching methods in the process of instructing English listening and speaking, which makes the teaching content and teaching capacity exploded. Under the new media environment, English teachers can arm themselves with modern technologies to produce high-quality courseware with rich content and diversified forms which can satisfy students' preferences. The communication between students and

teachers is no longer limited to time and space, and communication can be carried out anytime and anywhere. Teachers don't have to use a piece of chalk or a blackboard, nevertheless, they can use tools such as computers, projectors, and network terminals to push pictures, texts, sounds, images and other information from time to time. Under the new media environment, college English listening and speaking courses have undergone tremendous changes in terms of information transferring structure, student s' cognition structure, classroom time integration, and teacher-student communication methods. Ample and diversified teaching methods and teaching content have greatly stimulated students' interest in learning and led students to explore unknown areas.

1.3 Deepening teaching services and expanding teaching space

At present, China's colleges and universities have basically established campus network facilities. As a college teacher, one should take full advantage of the resources as a basis to build a new media curriculum system with prominent characteristics of a college and the course of English listening and speaking. In terms of the college, the enthusiasm of most English teachers and students should be fully stimulated, and teachers should be encouraged to work together to develop a new media curriculum scheme to meet the requirements of professional development of a major based on mobilizing teachers to collect, organize and produce educational resources related to college English listening and speaking courses along with establishing a database for it. At the same time, the students can be mobilized to manage the collected learning materials in different categories. The teachers store their own courseware and other resources at specific addresses, which may include audio resources, video resources, pictures and texts. The college can launch teachers of science and engineering related majors to develop simple and easy-to-use clients in accordance with the actual needs of students. So that students can log in to the information system at any time in their spare time, and quickly and efficiently obtain information materials. Meanwhile, interactive software and message boards under the new media can open channels for communication between teachers and students. Under the new media environment, the teaching and learning courses can break the limitations of time and space, greatly expand the space for education and teaching, and provide a practical guarantee for deepening teaching services.

1.4 Effectively improving students' practical abilities

New media originates from traditional media and surpasses traditional media. It is the product of the combination of media and technology. New media is a constantly evolving thing. With the integration of technologies such as the Internet, mobile Internet, and TV networks, teachers and students have more novel channels and means for understanding and practicing things. Compared with traditional English listening and speaking class, the most remarkable feature of English listening and speaking in the context of new media is interactive. More and more college curriculum instruction has been constructed based on this point. Interactivity enables students to specialize in English learning and individualized customization, so that students' learning is changed from passive cramming to active exploration. Students can also improve their practical abilities when searching for knowledge consciously. Obviously, this seemingly free way of education and teaching can give full play to the initiative, enthusiasm and creativity of students, and it lays a solid foundation for the improvement of students' practical abilities and the cultivation of students' innovative abilities.

2. Key Links in Teaching Innovation of English Listening and Speaking Course in the New Media Age

The new media environment provides a broad space and convenient way for innovation and transformation of the teaching methods of English listening and speaking course. New media is built on digital technology and network technology, with all-weather, all-service features, which can reach the essential needs of teachers and students for work and study. In addition, it caters for the needs of teaching reform and innovation in education. Considering the goals of English teaching innovation and reform in colleges and universities in the new era, teachers and the college should abandon the methods of traditional English listening and speaking instruction and adopt an open teaching mode in a deeper level and in a wider field. With regard to the general objectives of quality education, teachers must adhere to the people-oriented education concept, highlight the main status of students, use the vast resources of new media to combine with task-driven instruction, and arrange the students' learning tasks in and out of class in a scientific, rational and orderly manner. Various ways should be used to explore the potential of students, to stimulate students' enthusiasm and initiative in learning, to cultivate students' self-learning ability constantly and to develop a good habit for them to go out of school in the future. College English teaching should not only undertake the basic tasks of university teaching, but also obligate to cultivate talents in terms of personality and conduct. So that students will have good thinking, high cultural quality, strong sense of social responsibility and mission. The teaching of English listening and speaking under the new media is a three-dimensional education method, which can adapt to the needs of education and teaching transformation. The construction of the English listening and speaking course teaching system in the new media era should focus on the following aspects:

2.1 Optimizing and enriching the content of classroom teaching

In the new media teaching environment, teachers have the advantages to provide students with more teaching and learning resources due to the introduction of interactive devices. The use of audio data frees classroom teaching from the boring atmosphere, hence, students' interest in learning is fully stimulated, and the content of English listening and speaking classes has changed from a flattened pattern to a three-dimensional and diversified one. For example, in the classroom teaching, after playing an English video, students can hold a deep and profound discussion on the content of the video in a targeted manner. Furthermore, students can also   communicate with the teacher in the interactive terminal in real time based on the diversified issues the teacher organize. If most students are more concerned about the topics, the teacher can motivate students to use the resources with the new media to search for answers.

2.2 Expanding teaching space outside the classroom

In the traditional English listening and speaking class, students are very vulnerable to the constraints of time, space and other environments. The new media teaching approach supported by network technology is not limited by time and space, so that teachers and students can conduct flexible and convenient classroom interactions at any time and at any place without leaving home. In this way, students can make full use of their spare time. For example, the very popular micro-class nowadays is a very successful case of teaching space expansion in the new media environment. At the same time, the application of new media teaching methods can effectively avoid the differences in learning ability caused by individual differences among students. Traditional English listening and speaking teaching tends to neglect the individual differences of students because it is teaching-oriented and pursuing the standardization and consistency of

knowledge transfer. For this reason, the traditional education system is often based on the premise and result of stifling the personality and freedom of students, as it is difficult to teach students in accordance with their aptitude. The new media technology makes the people-oriented teaching concept possible, and students can explore the learning resources independently according to their own learning interest and hobbies.

2.3 Improving students' practical ability

As a very practical course, English listening and speaking classes have deviated the practical directions, and they have lost the basic learning conditions. After-school practice in traditional teaching is difficult to enhance students' English listening, speaking, and practicing skills in essence. In addition, the practice of students' English listening and speaking in the traditional education mode is very simple, and many students are already tired of it. New media has opened up a vast space for the development of students' practical activities and is deeply adored by students. At the same time, students can also exercise their teamwork and innovation skills in these activities.

3. Conclusion

New teaching methods for English listening and speaking courses based on new media form the general trend of future development of English listening and speaking education. The wide application of new media technologies will certainly promote the modernization of college English listening and speaking instruction under the condition of the application of new media technologies in college. English listening and speaking teaching can effectively expand students' comprehensive ability and potential, which can broaden students' professional horizon, strengthen students' practical abilities and places a significant part in boosting the instructing efficiency of English listening and speaking courses for English majors.

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