

# Development and Application of Environmental Teaching Materials in College English

Zhu Min

Foreign language school, Guilin University of Electronic Technology, Guilin, China

27876471@qq.com

**Keywords:** Environmental Teaching Materials, college English, pollution sources

**Abstract:** The paper combines the introduction of pollution sources involved in the third edition of College English New Concept English Lessons and how to reduce the pollution curriculum, analyzes the development and application of environmental English teaching materials in college English, analyzes the effective strategies of infiltrating environmental education in college English teaching, and proposes English teachers. It is necessary to combine the teaching contents related to environmental protection in the book curriculum, find the entry point of low-carbon environmental education, and improve the environmental awareness of students and the comprehensive use of English.

## 1. Introduction

As we all know, the natural environment is the homeland on which human beings depend. Human beings and nature are intimate friends. But now that human beings are constantly improving, the environment in which we live is becoming more and more complex, and we are faced with a series of environmental problems. These problems have affected the economic construction, social development and the quality of people's lives in our country. Therefore, protecting the environment and realizing the "sustainable development" of the environment has become the historical mission of today's mankind [1]. Low-carbon environmental education for college students is common in school club activities and in library-themed activities on Global Environment Day. The author believes that the integration of low-carbon environmental education into the subject teaching can receive unexpected results. The author attempts to infiltrate low-carbon environmental education in the teaching of the Lesson 47 section of the College English New Concept English, aiming at cultivating students' comprehensive English use ability and good low-carbon living habits.

## 2. The theoretical basis of environmental education

Environmental education is to arouse the environmental awareness of educates, so that educators can understand the inextricable links between human beings and the environment in the process of development, and cultivate people to face problems in the face of environmental problems. Skills, the science that can effectively implement environmental protection capabilities. College students' environmental education is intended to enable students to understand basic environmental knowledge, support the theoretical framework of knowledge, enhance students' environmental awareness, and cultivate students' environmental skills. More importantly, it is to guide college students to establish the values and attitudes of the environment correctly, so that they fully understand the important value of the environment to human society, and thus actively pay attention to the environment and promote the sustainable development of the economy and society. Among the existing research results in China, there are many infiltrations of environmental education in the humanities or science and technology theories, and the research results of infiltration of environmental education in English teaching are relatively few. To this end, how to establish students' environmental awareness in the English subject is a subject that needs to be studied [2].

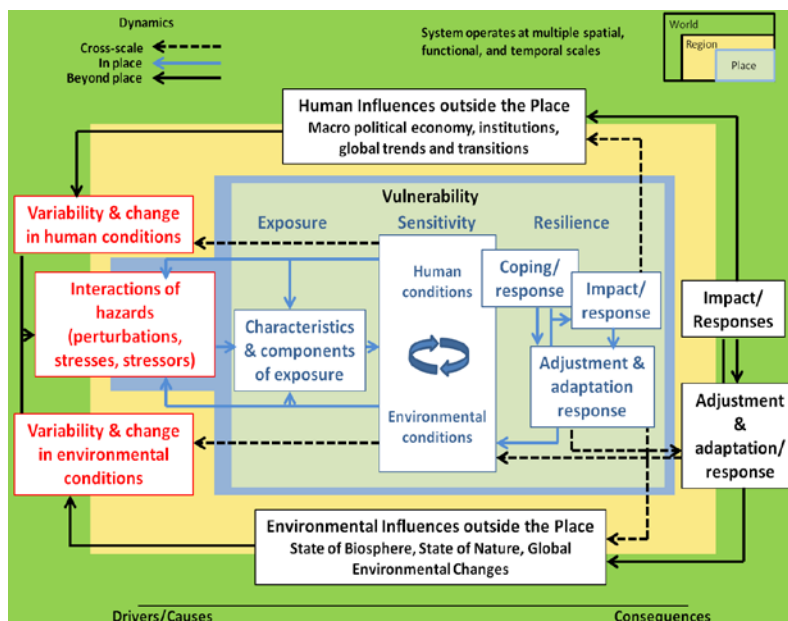


Figure 1. Theory and content of environmental education

### 3. Development of Environmental Teaching Materials in College English

#### 3.1 Accumulation of environmental materials before the course of teaching

The English course teaching should be closely related to the students' actual activities. If the whole class is neat or the environment is poor before the course starts, you can tell the students about the environmental protection before the course begins. For example, some foreign tourists in some domestic tourist attractions not only put their own garbage in the collection bag, but also saw the scattered garbage on the ground will take the initiative to pick up, but many domestic tourists have turned a blind eye to this, even ridiculed foreigners; foreign attacks on environmental pollution Not only in the garbage pollution, if there is noise pollution, the residents can complain to the police, the local environmental protection department will severely punish the noise pollution source... In the process of telling these environmental protection tips to the students, it not only creates a relaxed learning for the students. The atmosphere, through these paragraphs, allows students to reflect, take the initiative to maintain the surrounding environment, and establish a student's environmental awareness.

#### 3.2 Accumulating environmental teaching materials in the course teaching

In the Introduction to Pollution Sources and How to Reduce Pollution in the New Concept English Book 3 Lesson 17, we introduced a variety of pollution: air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution... Yes, we live in such a flood in a variety of polluted environments. In this course, we can analyze which daily behaviors reduce pollution. For example, drive less to help reduce air pollution. Cars are one of the main causes of air pollution in the United States. Try to ride a bicycle or walk as much as possible, use public transport more, and develop a carpool plan. At present, the research technology of electric vehicles is relatively mature, and various green electric vehicles have also been born in China. In the future, after the students have graduated from the demand for car purchase, they can purchase a green electric car. Not only can it reduce emissions, but it also helps reduce the world's demand for oil. Extracting oil from the ground it often produces a large amount of pollution by-products. For example, recycle, reuse, or compose everything you can get. Recycling reduces pollution in many ways. Extracting raw materials often causes soil and water pollution. Manufacturing fossil fuels from scratch and increasing air pollution. The landfills where most of the discarded items are dead - landfills - are often filled with toxic substances, and the air and land around the landfill are also heavily polluted. For example, the use of plastic bags can be reduced. According to the BBC report, discarded plastic bags piled up in the Pacific Ocean form a "plastic

soup" covering an area of 15 million square kilometers. Plastic bags endanger the environment. Littering plastic bags destroys the natural landscape and poses a threat to wildlife [3].

At the same time, it is also possible to extend the content of classroom education and introduce the Chinese environmental history closely related to our country's life. It is *The Retreat of the Elephants: An Environmental History of China* by Maoke Yi. This book is hailed as the foundation stone for Western scholars to write about China's environmental history. It is divided into three parts: patterns, special cases, and concepts, including geographical indications and time stamps, three thousand years of struggle between humans and elephants, an overview of deforestation, and forest abuse. The relationship between felled areas and tree species, war and short-term benefits, the cost of maintaining water and water systems, the story of Jiaying from the object to Minfeng, the colonization of Han Chinese in the Miao nationality in Guizhou, the mystery of Zunhua's longevity, and nature 12 chapters on revelation, science and living things, empire creeds and personal opinions. The book mainly writes about the impact of the elephant's south withdrawal, forest destruction, and war water system on the environment, and outlines the "one general map" of China's environmental history (Fig. 2), especially the authentic English and rich expressions. The students received good teaching results and strengthened their environmental awareness and patriotism [4].



Figure 2. General Map of China's environmental history

In addition, students can also enhance their environmental awareness in the new concept English listening training. In the "Hearing" section, a lecture by students listening to Earth Day environmentalists called for people to protect water resources, prevent water pollution, and pay attention to water conservation. The "Reading" section talks about environmental and economic issues. It is not difficult to see that editors have a holistic view of environmental issues and use infiltration methods to carefully design content to convey students' environmental knowledge and skills and to develop students' sustainable development. Values to form behavioral patterns that are environmentally friendly. Teachers should carefully study the new concept textbooks, and combine the classroom teaching environment to integrate the environmental teaching content into the text learning. In the text teaching, it is also possible to combine some practical life, carry out some environmental education activities, deepen the environmental education methods in study and life, establish a correct and effective environmental awareness of students, start from small things, and carry out environmental education and self-education through life. And the whole process of learning. Infiltration of environmental education in classroom teaching needs to cultivate students' environmental awareness, educate students' environmental protection content, inform students of environmental protection skills, enrich environmental protection materials and resources, etc., in order to truly infiltrate environmental protection elements in English.

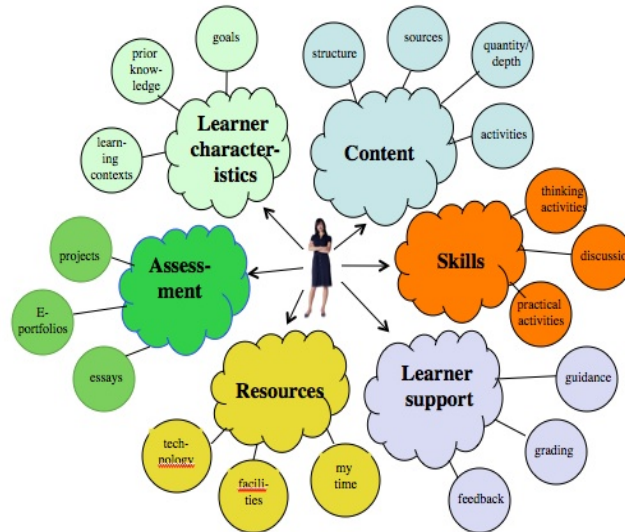


Figure 3. University English classroom environmental education development mind map

### 3.3 Accumulating environmental teaching materials in extracurricular activities

English is the carrier of cultural information. Teachers can often carry out some English extracurricular activities to build a platform for students to use English and enhance environmental awareness. The author believes that English extracurricular activities that effectively enhance students' environmental awareness include: conducting social surveys, producing English posters and English signboards, and compiling English dramas.

#### (1) Organizing social surveys

Social survey is an extension of classroom learning. It allows students to design problems, statistical data and draw conclusions based on the content of classroom learning. In order to strengthen students' awareness of environmental protection, after completing the English texts, the author organizes students to do some investigation activities, so that students can confirm the information provided in the books through the data obtained by social practice, and at the same time combine their usual observations and reflections. Our own bad behavior is guaranteed to start from ourselves and protect the environment in which we live. A group of students surveyed and wrote such a report: Air pollution, noise pollution and ground pollution near my home. Air pollution comes from the emissions of various vehicles, the smoke from the chimneys of steel mills and the dust from construction sites. Ground pollution comes from shipyards and people who litter and spit. Such a survey can foster students' awareness of participation and make students realize that environmental pollution is happening to them. Protecting the environment is the responsibility and responsibility of every person on earth. Subsequently, they all said that they should start from themselves, and never litter and spit in the future, and urge parents to drive fewer cars a month to reduce air and ground pollution and protect the environment [5].

#### (2) Making graffiti and signage

Graffiti production is a way of showing what students learn in class, and it can check the mastery of students' knowledge. Through the production of posters, students can also strengthen the team's spirit of cooperation, and in connection with their own life in the production, reflect on their own behavior, to achieve a certain educational purpose. After finishing the new concept English Lesson 3, the author's homework assignment is to let students create an English-language graffiti that cares for the environment in groups, and write down their respective commitments and signatures. This is the poster content of one of the students:



Figure 4. Example of graffiti after class environmental education

The production of English signboards enables students to apply Basic English and receive environmental education in English learning, so that they can understand civilization, cultivate good environmental behavior habits, and realize that the environment must be started from everyday matters [6].

### 3.4 Accumulating environmental materials during extended learning

(1) Use the activities of the club activities to appreciate English movies and news

The ninth section of the school is the time of the school's club activities. The author uses the English Corner to play the environmentally-themed films such as the American documentary *The Cove*, the 11th Hour, the American film *Erin Brockovich*, and the documentary film *Wild China* jointly produced by BBC and CCTV. After watching the movie, let the students write a few impressions of the impressive plots and pictures. From the perception of the teacher, the visual impact of these films is huge, and they are encouraged to think about how to contribute a little to protect the earth. In addition, regular reading activities should be held through the English Corner to encourage students to exercise their English reading skills and pay attention to global environmental protection activities. For example, let students collect recent English-related news related to environmental protection, find out what foreign students have done for environmental protection (especially focusing on art-related activities), and then share them with other students in the English Corner [7].

(2) Earth Day publicity activities

Every April 22nd is The World Earth Day. The purpose of the event is to evoke the awareness of human beings to protect the earth and protect their homes. In early April, English teachers placed students' awareness of environmental protection and produced PPT or flash animations that were illustrated in the class. Select excellent works to be displayed on the big screen of the campus on Earth Day; arrange students who like photography to take photos of environmentally-friendly subjects outside the school, and name them in English, and select excellent works to be displayed on the campus exhibition hall and campus official website.

(3) Conduct English debate

The author selected an English article on environmental protection from *China Daily* for students to read at the upper limit. The content of the article is: In order to alleviate the power supply pressure, solve the power supply demand in North China and North China, and promote the rapid development of the national economy, the government plans to build several nuclear power plants in the southeast

coastal areas of China. This plan has caused controversy among various parties. Some of them clap their hands and feel that this plan can provide more employment opportunities for local residents and promote local economic construction. Some complain that the completion of nuclear power plants is bound to cause pollution to the local environment. After reading, the author organized students to conduct English debates, divided into positive and negative groups by group, to debate the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power plant construction. Because the author usually pays more attention to the students' environmental education, the environmental education is immersed in the teaching for a long time. The environmental awareness of the students in the class is generally strong. Therefore, in the process of debate, students pay more attention to the problem from the perspective of environmental protection.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Protecting the planet on which human beings depend is the obligation of every citizen. It is the unshakable responsibility of every educator to carry out low-carbon environmental education. In junior high school English teaching, teachers should thoroughly study the contents of textbooks, fully explore the teaching content related to environmental protection contained in textbooks, identify the entry points of low-carbon environmental education, and continuously improve students' environmental awareness. In English teaching, teachers should create real-life situations for students to practice low-carbon activities, so that students can improve their environmental awareness and social responsibility in the process of completing tasks in English.

#### **References**

- [1] Xu Wenjun. Development and Application of English Teaching Materials Close to Chinese College Students' Life. *Journal of Inner Mongolia University of Technology*, Vol.6 (2015) No.14, p. 1-9.
- [2] Jiao Jiao. Infiltration of Environmental Education in English Teaching. *High School Students' Learning (Composition)*, Vol. 11(2015) No.17, p. 58-59.
- [3] Xu Zhihong. Let Environmental Education and "Peer" in Junior Middle School English Teaching. *Language Learning (late junior high school)*, Vol. 8 (2013) No.3, p. 9-12
- [4] Zhang Qi, Bao Zhiming. Research on Environmental History in China and Its Academic Enlightenment to the Present—Comparative Analysis and Extended Thinking of "Retreat of Elephant" and "Chinese Environmental History". *Journal of China University of Geosciences (Social Sciences Edition)*, Vol. 1 (2018) No.14, p.75-81.
- [5] Sun Jian. Research on the Operating Environment and Model of Open College English Network Teaching. *Computer Development & Applications*, Vol. 12 (2013) No.21, p. 15-17.
- [6] He Donglei. On the Construction of Word Material Library and Its Application in College English Teaching. *Communication and Copyright*, Vol. 9 (2017) No.34, p. 165-167.
- [7] He Fang. Development and Application of Micro-course in College English Teaching. *Journal of Hebei Radio & TV University*, Vol. 4 (2016) No.21, p. 81-83.