

On Connotative Development of Foreign Language Teaching in Chinese Universities

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Abstract

This thesis studies connotative development of foreign language teaching in universities in China, and commits further analysis of the implication of the university education connotative development, illustrates three stages of evolution of the university education connotative development; it states that university education connotative development advocates the principle of self development. It also analyses current situation of foreign languages teaching in colleges and universities, China has a good foundation for the construction of a global country, to realize its internationalization and modernization connotative development of foreign language teaching in universities in China becomes more important than before. The demand conditions of foreign language talents in China makes the students should understand the western advanced civilization achievements, broaden their horizon, extend knowledge, set up the international consciousness through learning English, so as to promote international communication; the reform of the original mode and the building of a new English professional talent training mode is what society call for. Furthermore, it constructs connotative development mode of foreign language teaching in universities, university education values in training talents that adapt to the new era of social development, and then promote the development of social

productive forces. The thesis sums up that the research results and then puts forward the essence of connotative development of universities in China.

Key words: Teaching; Foreign language; Connotative development; Talents; University education; Implication; Teaching reform; Construction

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INTRODUCTION

Connotative development of university education is the direction of the educational reform development in China, and also a way we must go in order to improve the university's education quality. Combined with the special historical period in China, foreign language teaching in universities need compose new teaching concept and teaching mode based on the schooling philosophy, which deepens education and teaching reform as well as improves the quality and level of running a school.

1. THE IMPLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION CONNOTATIVE DEVELOPMENT

The university education connotative development contains three stages of evolution: the first stage was in 1980s. The number of institutions of higher education increased rapidly from 715 to 1016 from 1982 to 1985 with enrollment amount going up at a speed of 25% per year in average. At that time, China's economy was fast-developing, university scale was small, and graduate supply fell short of demand. The higher education

connotative development directed at two aspects in allusion to this situation: the first one is the extensional development train of thought which enlarges the enrollment scale by increasing the number of universities; the second one is its opposite side that is, the connotative development train of thought. The latter was thought to be an effective way of expanding the scale of undergraduates without much input. The second stage is from 1990 to 1993. The enrollment amount increased from 610 thousand to 920 thousand, there's notable effect of exploiting potentialities. The higher education connotative development's goal of this stage is to enlarge the scale. The third stage started from 2006. There was an increase in enrollment amount from 1.6 million in 1999 to 5.04 million in 2005. The excessive growth of enrollment scale results in a series of problems: universities are on a tight budget; the faculty-student ratio is decreasing; hardware facility is not sufficient; student source quality is on a downgrade and the employment pressure is rising. Improving the quality and benefits of education has become the core objective of university. At the new stage university development once again goes back to the connotative way of development while its aim has already changed radically compared to the preliminary stage. The development history shows that the higher education connotative development is undergoing a process of increase in number of schools, students, teachers and change in philosophy of schooling.

University education connotative development advocates the principle of self development. According to their own resource superiority, universities are supposed to choose ways of talent cultivation that can adapt students to the society's needs, respect people-oriented principle, pay attention to personality development, keep a watchful eye on students' emotion and cognition law of development, and never go against development of students' body and mind, which requirement of society. Those are all important reflections of the connotative development concept. The higher education connotative development needs to mobilize students' initiative, stimulate the potential, and combine it with effective management system and cultural construction, which is the core of connotative development of the higher education.

2. CURRENT SITUATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES TEACHING IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CHINA

China, as a developing country, has a good foundation for the construction of a global country. For advancing towards becoming a modern global country, the mid-to-late stage after China stepping into industrialization laid solid economic foundation; China's modernization realization added confidence; its international realization

injected vigor. In international index system, many cities in China are suitable. For instance, Daqing, it covers 4 first-class indicators, 23 second-class indicators in urban economic development, living standard, infrastructure, ecological environment and international open communication. The first three parts can be understood as modernization of a higher level, which is the internal function of the international city and the latter part reflects the external function. Measured by urban caliber in 2010, Daqing's modern international realization degree will achieve 49.6% by the end of 2010, in which economic development internationalization achieves 81.6%, living standard achieves 72.4%, infrastructure and ecological environment achieve 71.5%, and international open communication achieves 1.8%. To be more exact, there are 6 indicators which exceeded international standards, 5 indicators are close to international standard and 12 indicators are far behind internationalization which includes the proportion of inbound tourists to local population, the number of foreign financial institutions, foreign direct investment, and the popularizing rate of citizens' English using.

According to the present situation, Position of Daqing city regionally influences metropolis of Northeast Asia in the future. And the government has also carried out related construction in a planned and orderly way. Daqing has already strived to develop alternative industries, and has introduced industrial projects like Jili and Lianxiang, developed agricultural production base and vendor hub which characterized greenhouse economy, developed geothermal economy to realize diversified development. At the same time, a city with green oil and hundreds of natural lakes which is ecological, natural, modern and livable is vividly portrayed in accordance with the agricultural civilization of prairie and wetland, the industrial civilization of large oilfields and the urban civilization of metropolis.

In conclusion, we should endeavor to make China a livable and ecological metropolis under the guidance of "five-in-one" construction idea which proposed by the 18th CPC National Congress. All of these rely on good natural conditions and acquired efforts, the distance between China and modern global country will become less and less.

During the course of the development of human society, agricultural society values past, industrial society values present and information society values future. The basis and future of global country construction lies in using and cultivating talents in the country. As for cultivating international talents, the countries of the world come up with their own measures. For instance, in early 1990s, America stated clearly the introduction of the teaching system that improve students' global consciousness and international concept, so that every student can achieve the knowledge of world class standard; Japan raised in 1980s that they need to cultivate

the world universal Japanese people; South Korea set up a cultivating goal of making every effort to improve and enhance students' autonomic cosmopolite consciousness and comprehension of various countries' social and cultural knowledge. The effective way of cultivating international urban talents is education, we should not only take language education as an only way of grasp language skill, we should also put some social value upon the language education, in this way the students can not only learn language itself. In this way language education has social function as well.

Teaching English is a practical and comprehensive way. In terms of local universities, English major education aims at cultivating application-oriented English talents that meet the needs of society. Employment and recruitment difficulty of English major occurred these years reflects that English major education cannot well satisfy the needs of the market, with the poor teaching segment of practice and students' poor practical competency this may cause. For the past few years, relevant specialists have researched on how to construct English major teaching patterns and realize the training goal of application-oriented English talents from different perspectives.

3. DEMAND CONDITIONS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TALENTS IN CHINA

Under the background of constructing modern global country, to cultivate international compound talents for development is in urgent need. In allusion to China's sustainable development, the minister of the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the CPC Yuanchao Li raised that China should characterize modern international and livable country of China. And secretary of the provincial Party committee also put forward that China would build a modern international metropolis. In accordance with the instructions of the central and provincial leaders, the government has already taken action. The research found that there covered in the international index system factors like penetration of citizens' English applying and the communication and cooperation of foreign merchant. And all of these factors relate to English social popularity; therefore we can tell that English public popularity will directly affect the internationalization of China urban construction process. Colleges and universities is the main way of foreign language professionals output, thus constructing a reasonable English professional talent training mode which is suitable for the requirement of society is an important task of colleges and universities, and also an important observation point to realize the indicators of modern urban construction internationalization.

First of all, the construction of modern global country requires us to understand the western advanced civilization achievements, broaden our horizon, extend knowledge,

set up the international consciousness through learning English, so as to promote international communication. In reverse, with the increase in international communication, needs for language service, especially English service, are more and more urgent, so training expertise English professional talents with excellent foreign language skill and high quality is one of the key point of the work target to realize the internationalization of China. By planning and implementing international team of English talent cultivation project, constructing reasonable English major professional training mode in colleges, the city can input a great quantity of talents to society who meet the social modernization internationalization development needs. Then through the talent training and retraining, China will improve the English level of industry personnel and their comprehensive quality, promote external exchanges and support international city construction and development.

Secondly, the reform of the original mode and the building of a new English professional talent training mode is what society call for. College English teaching has once made remarkable achievements, and has trained a large number of English professional talents for the country's all walks of life. However, with the arrival of the 21st century, the existing English professional talent training mode has significant problems. The monotonous teaching mode has not adapted to the requirements of social development anymore. The project directing at the demand in English talents of some enterprises and institutions shows that the demand for foreign language talents is increasing. But investigation in English major graduates' employment situation in these two years shows that English major employment rate is comparatively low, and in those who have been employed, a lot of them do not engage in English-related work. Take the English major of Daqing Teacher-Training College as an example, the teaching-oriented foreign language major graduates of 2009 were 337 people, in their initial employment, only 52 people engaged in foreign language teaching, who are professional foreign language teachers. The teaching-oriented foreign language major graduates of 2010 were 180 people, only 38 of them engaged in the foreign language teaching as professional foreign language teachers at the initial employment. And the same with the teaching-oriented foreign language major graduates of 2011, 36 out of 193 people work as professional foreign language teachers. The other students were under great employment pressure. They tried to change their profession and still couldn't find the right job, so they had to engage in work which is not related to English. And other universities, such as the schools of foreign language of the Northeast Petroleum University and Bayi Agricultural Reclamation University, from which the proportion of graduates who engaged in the foreign language profession is even smaller, which shows that the single mode of foreign language talents training cannot meet the social needs for talents.

The reason is that in different time and different background, English major talent training mode has no corresponding change, it still cultivates unitary type of English major talents. Obviously, this cannot satisfy the social demand of foreign language talents and is out of society. Therefore, the study on a new college English major talent training mode which is suitable for the requirement of the society will benefit the change of single mode of talent training, the talents employment problem, and meet the social demand for English talents. Therefore, college English majors should determine the compound English-applying professional talents and teaching mode according to their own actual situation with the guide of market demand.

What's more, college English talent training mode construction improves English penetration of Chinese citizens. The correlation between citizens' English-using penetration and foreign language teaching should be consistent. Based on the perspective of global country construction, China should give full play to the role of professional English teaching education. Constructing the new English major talent training mode is the priority of current college English major education teaching reform. This research conduces to college English major graduates employment problem solving, contributes to China English primary education's weak link, that is, to strengthening rural primary and secondary school teacher resource, and also improves the English penetration especially in various service trades and the soft power of China cultural development, plays a supporting role in the development of China. Thus as the modernization and internationalization develop continuously, the demand for foreign language talents is increasing.

4. THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONNOTATIVE DEVELOPMENT MODE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING IN UNIVERSITIES

University education values in training talents that adapt to the new era of social development, and then promote the development of social productive forces. According to investigation from two aspects of teaching resources in primary and secondary school and English using by people from all walks of life, we can be clear about the existing problems in foreign language training and training direction. We should set up a training goal according to the social needs, and research training program from the curriculum, classroom teaching and extracurricular training, social practice, teacher training and so on, and finally form a feasible mode of university foreign language talents training. Then we apply the new training mode to construct university English major training strategy, expect personnel training results in terms of the specific training strategies, and make effective evaluation scheme for personnel training result.

The university foreign language major plays an important role in personnel delivery. We put forward the problem of constructing university foreign language talents training mode according to requirements for the current international construction index and demands for foreign language talents. In order to solve this problem, we should exert ourselves to making a teaching scheme that meets the social demand for the college English professional teaching. Teaching practice, with the student as its main body, will certainly bring us reform on teaching methods. We should try to improve the teaching methods, teaching mode, teaching means adopted by foreign language teaching in universities, make a scientific evaluation for current university foreign language teaching condition and effects, develop the new training objectives and plan which is more conducive to construction process according to the present teaching situation, construct reasonable and effective university English professional talent training mode, try to develop more cultivation modes which adapt to the requirements of social development, promote the public English penetration and accelerate the construction of global process.

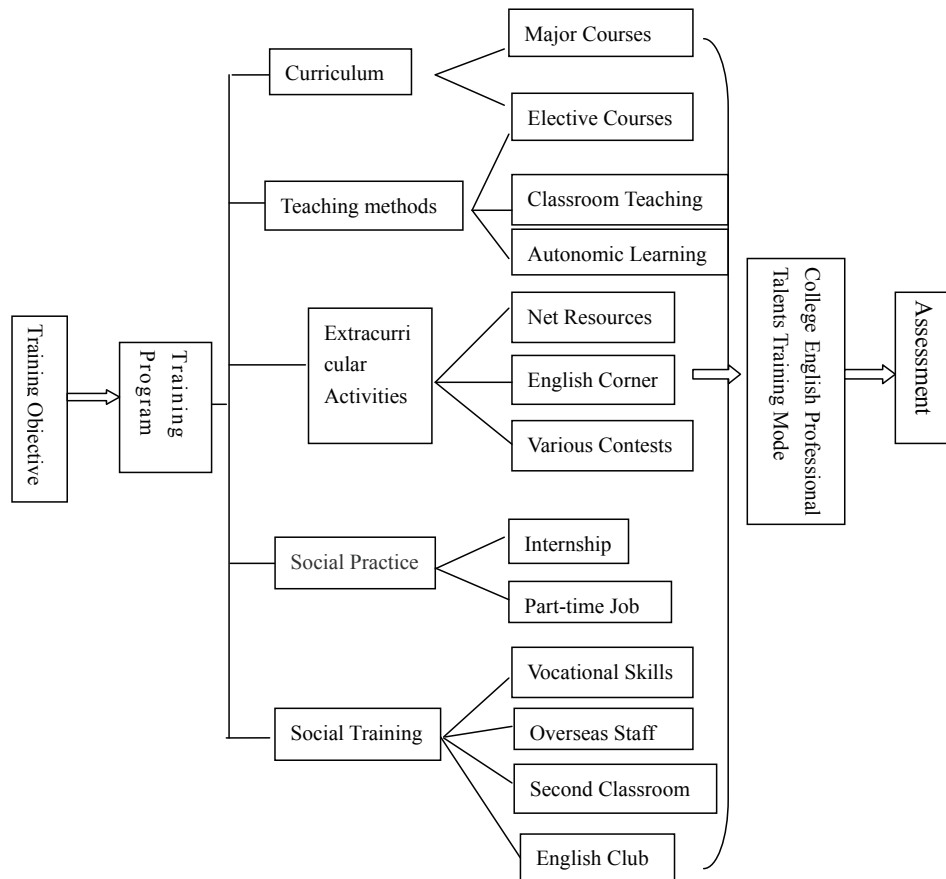
Specific implementation plans are as follows:

1) We should make research on English penetration, mainly from teaching resource of primary and secondary school especially in rural areas and people from all walks of life these two aspects. Through the investigation, we will learn current English popularity, the demand for foreign language talents and the present English talents source. On the other hand, we should make investigation of English major graduates' employment situation with Daqing Teacher-Training College as an example and carry on the analysis between English major students' employment problem and English penetration problem in China.

2) The Second stage is to make a training plan: Based on research results of investigation stage and reflected problems, we should make college English major talent training scheme accordingly. We should start from the requirements, make training program from aspects of curriculum, teaching methods, extracurricular activities, social practice, social training and so on.

3) Then comes to the forming stage of talent training mode: through the actual operation and implementation of training program, evaluation of the effect, colleges will finally form compound application-oriented talents training mode.

4) The fourth stage is the using of mode promotion: By evaluating the implementation of English professional talent training mode in Teacher-Training College in China, the project will be combined with our English professional training program, then embedded in the process of teaching to be constructed and implemented. After the completion, the project can form template. At that time, we will actively invite other college English teaching experts to communicate for ease of reference.



CONCLUSION

Foreign language teaching in China is a very important teaching activity in school education, and the function of foreign language teaching can be seen obviously, this thesis mainly discussed the connotative development of universities in China, and four aspect are developed here: implication of the university education connotative development; current situation of foreign languages teaching in colleges and universities in China; demand conditions of foreign language talents in China; construction of connotative development mode in university foreign language teaching etc. In the end several effective methods are suggested in university language in China.

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