



## The Development of College English Teachers in the New Era

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**Abstract:** The rapid development of science and technology and the global integration have put forward new requirements for talents. In the new era, colleges and universities are facing unprecedented challenges in talents cultivation. As educators of the talents, college teachers must take the initiative to meet the challenges and improve the quality of talent training to contribute for the development of the country and society. College English teachers, as the guiders in language and cultural learning, thinking development and the formation of outlook on life, world outlook and values, must have enough ability to fulfill their responsibilities. This requires every college English teacher to keep pace with the times and constantly improve themselves from various aspects, and better meet the new demand for talents in the new era.

**Keywords:** New era, College English teachers, Ability, Development

### Introduction

In the 1960s, the research on teacher professional development emerged in the United States. In the 1980s, Chinese scholars began to pay attention to this topic. According to American professor Richards J C, the professional development of foreign language teachers refers to the dynamic process in which foreign language teachers improve their professional quality and improve their belief system through continuous learning and reflection in teaching practice. With the deepening of globalization and increasingly fierce international competition, the demand for English compound talents with international vision is increasing day by day. In addition to having a solid foundation of professional knowledge, such interdisciplinary talents are also indispensable for their proficiency in English communication and application and profound English language and cultural accomplishment. In addition, China's increasing status in the international community has also prompted college English education in China to shift from basic education to interdisciplinary talent training. Therefore, whether the professional quality of college English teachers can meet the requirements in the new era is related to the quality and efficiency of China's international social communication. In order to understand the current situation, trend, achievements and shortcomings of the

research on college English teachers' professional development, and to provide reference for the future research on college English teachers' professional development in China, it is necessary to conduct the research on college English teachers' professional development.

Teacher development has become a top priority of the reform of education in colleges and universities. General secretary Xi pointed out in as early as 2014: "To realize the national prosperity and rejuvenation, education development, we need a large number of high-quality professional teachers with noble ethics and reasonable structure." The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) emphasized the priority given to the development of education, identified the building of a powerful country in education as the basic project of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and called for strengthening the construction of teachers' ethics and manners, and training high-quality teachers.

In the new era, new technology with the use of internet is constantly applied in college English teaching, and the reform of college English teaching is constantly carried out, which poses new requirements and challenges to college English teachers.

College English teachers are a very important part of higher education, and their teaching objects are college students from different majors, different backgrounds, different



pursuits and goals. College English teachers' development is closely related to the cultivation of college students.

Facing new requirements and challenges, college English teachers should build up the idea of lifelong development and make practical and feasible development plan to improve educational ability, professional quality, information technology and scientific research ability, teaching ability. Keep deepening education reform to improve the quality of education, to adapt to the demand of the higher education, and guarantee the high quality of talents training in the new era.

### **1. Educational ability**

Educational ability requires college English teachers to always give priority to moral cultivation. Just as General Secretary Xi Jinping (2016) emphasized "A teacher should not only be a teacher who imparts book knowledge, but also a great person who shapes students' characters, behaviors and values. Teachers should exert their value in political identity and national consciousness, moral cultivation and personality accomplishment, scientific spirit and professional ethics (Xu Ke, 2020).

In December 2016, General Secretary Xi stressed at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities that "the foundation of the establishment of colleges and universities lies in moral cultivation. Teachers should adhere to moral cultivation as the central link, and ideological and political work should run through the whole process of education and teaching to realize the full and all-round education. Classroom teaching should be used as the main channel. Ideological and political theory courses should be strengthened in the improvement, improve the affinity and pertinence of ideological and political education, and meet the needs and expectations of students' growth and development. Other courses should keep a good canal and plant a good responsibility field, so that all kinds of courses and ideological and political theory courses work in the same direction and form a synergistic effect.

In June 2020, the Ministry of Education issued a notice on the Guidelines for Ideological and Political Construction of the Curriculum in Higher Education, pointed out that we must think about the fundamental issue of education like for whom our education is, how to educate and what talents we are cultivating. And that the effectiveness of moral cultivation is the fundamental criterion for testing all the work of colleges and universities. To fulfill the fundamental task of cultivating people through virtue, we must integrate value shaping, knowledge imparting and ability cultivation. To promote the construction of curriculum ideology and politics in an all-round way is to guide values in knowledge teaching and ability training, and to help students shape the correct world outlook, outlook on life and

values, which is the due meaning and essential content of talent training. This strategic move affects and even decides the succession issue, the long-term stability of the country, the national rejuvenation and the rise of the country. At the same time, it is clearly required that a curriculum ideological and political system with comprehensive coverage, rich types, progressive levels and mutual support should be constructed based on the development needs of the country and the region, the development orientation of the school, the goal of talent training. We need to put the education as the most basic and fundamental work. To dig deeper into teaching materials for ideological and political education resources. Make our students master the development rule of things, understand the world, rich their knowledge, enrich their mind, build character. To develop their morality, intelligence and physique in their study. Cultivate the socialist builders and successors we need.

In order to improve students' language ability, critical thinking, international vision, cultural confidence and other aspects of ability and quality, college English teachers must first have these abilities and qualities. Just as the saying goes, Great learning makes a teacher; moral integrity makes a model. Teachers' ideals and beliefs, professional abilities, words and deeds, moral cultivation awareness, values and other qualities have a subtle influence on students. College English teachers should pay attention to their own words and deeds, moral sentiment, ideals and beliefs. Thus, college English teachers should keep learning and doing research to improve their ability of education to make students consciously firm learning goals while improving their abilities, establishing ideals and beliefs, and form a correct outlook on life, world outlook and values.

### **2. Professional skills**

Professional skills refers to the abilities and strategies that teachers apply professional knowledge to teach in combination with teaching theories, beliefs, principles, values and concepts. (Richards 2017).

The National College English Teaching Guide points out that lifelong learning and learning-oriented teachers should be established. Teachers' continuous learning and active participation in teaching research and teaching reform are the main approaches for teachers' development. It is very important for teachers to improve their professional ability through independent learning. College English teachers should first have the solid English language knowledge and proficiency in the English language skills, systematic knowledge of English literature and strong ability of literary appreciation and criticism, rich multicultural knowledge and strong ability of intercultural communication and critical thinking. These abilities have direct influence on quality of college English teaching. To be competent in foreign language teaching, language teachers should not only have

solid professional knowledge, but also master linguistic theories and understand theoretical knowledge of other disciplines such as second language acquisition, pedagogy and educational psychology.

Transdisciplinarity is one of the typical characteristics of foreign language teaching. With the rapid development of the society, new fields are constantly emerging and new knowledge is emerging one after another. Therefore, college English teachers should establish the concept of lifelong learning, constantly learn new knowledge, constantly update and optimize their knowledge structure, and lay a good foundation for having qualified courses.

### **3. Information literacy and skills**

Information literacy refers to college English teachers' understanding of information technology, especially the development trends and cutting-edge development of quality online education platforms. College English teachers should have the ability to integrate information technology teaching to explore and practice a hybrid teaching model. College English teachers should also have strong information awareness, rich information knowledge and information skills after putting morality cultivation, and have excellent information literacy to integrate information technology into English teaching. (Li Xiaoxiang, Chen Xi 2016:40)

The development and application of multimedia and Internet technology are changing people's way of work, learning, thinking, communication and life at an amazing speed, exerting an important influence on modern education and teaching methods. "Education Informatization 2.0 Action Plan" clearly puts forward the concept of "smart education". That is, education in the era of intelligence should be reformed and changed more significantly from the aspects of education concept, education method, education content and education purpose. The key point of intelligent education is to solve the problem of personalized education. As Wu Zhaohui (2019) pointed out, undergraduate education should create new learning space, make full use of modern information technology, vigorously build online teaching platform, further innovate teaching methods and learning methods, create an open learning environment, and make teaching more personalized, management more refined, and education more scientific.

Information technology and intelligent technology provide brand-new teaching methods, learning methods and abundant resources for college English teaching. The national college English teaching guide (2020 edition) said that multimedia technology as well as the big data, virtual reality technology, artificial intelligence technology and other modern information technology have been important methods in foreign language teaching in the era of information and intelligence. The guide (2020 edition) advocated that teachers should make full use of information

technology, and actively create a diverse teaching and learning environment. Construct or use high-quality courses such as online open courses, virtual simulation experiment courses. Online and offline courses go together to implement hybrid teaching mode to make students develop towards active learning, independent learning and personalized learning. College English teachers are encouraged to make full use of the online teaching platform, provide students with online and offline independent learning paths and rich independent learning resources combined with classroom teaching and modern information technology. Promote students to transform from passive learning to active learning.

With the deep integration of information technology and education, college English teachers must learn relevant skills. Information literacy and skills can not only help college English teachers build online, offline, virtual and hybrid compatible three-dimensional intelligent teaching space, but also help them make reasonable use of the advantages of the network and technology to build online autonomous learning platform. Digital literacy and skills can help college English teachers improve their ability to collect, share, process, analyze and manage data. This ability is not only conducive to improving the teaching effect, but also can enhance teachers' awareness of scientific research and problem awareness, and promote the innovative development of teaching.

So, in the era of smart technology and education teaching depth fusion, college English teachers have to constantly improve their information literacy and ability, innovate teaching mode, the rich teaching resources and choose suitable methods, using blended teaching to meet the new requirements for talents in the new era.

### **4. Teaching ability**

The college English teaching guide (2020 edition) particularly pointed out that teachers should deal well with the relationship between traditional teaching methods and modern teaching methods in the process of using modern teaching means rationally. Teachers should also focus on interpersonal communication and emotional communication with students. Give students ideological guide, emotion, personality and aesthetic edification and influence. The choice of teaching means involved is the embodiment of teaching ability. Teachers should not only have solid professional knowledge, but also have good educational ability. Teachers need to improve their teaching content knowledge, theoretical knowledge, learners' knowledge, situational knowledge, social and cultural knowledge. These knowledge is the necessary condition for teachers to improve their teaching ability. Therefore, college English teachers not only need to know what kind of talents are needed for national and social development in the new era, the ways of

talent training, but also need to combine modern information technology to improve teaching efficiency, which requires every teacher to constantly improve their teaching ability.

### 5. Scientific research ability

The new era has put forward new requirements for foreign language teachers. College English teachers should not only have solid professional knowledge, but also specialize and become research-oriented teachers. Only doing continuous research in teaching, can the teachers really have good English classes. Teaching provides the most direct material for the content and method of doing scientific research. It is the resource library of scientific research materials. Scientific research in teaching makes the teaching purpose clearer, the teaching method more scientific, and the teaching effect more obvious.

College English teachers need to solid professional knowledge constantly. At the same time, they can use their own language advantage to focus on related discipline development and industry trends, take an active part in academic exchange and research activities. Improve their scientific research ability by learning scientific research methods and continuously doing research and having innovation. So college English teachers should do scientific research while having qualified classes.

Teachers should constantly reflect on teaching, be good at discovering problems in teaching, and sum up experience and lessons. Teachers are not only the practitioners of teaching but also the thinkers and constructors of educational theories. Only by constantly reflecting on the teaching ideas can we understand and produce new teaching ideas and apply the new theories into practice. Teachers should improve their research ability by reflecting on their own teaching behavior, teaching decision-making methods and processes. It is particularly important to emphasize that reflection questions must be based on empirical data, not too subjective, and full research should be carried out. In the study of teaching methods and teaching theories, we need constantly reflect on the problems encountered in practical teaching, explain the gains and losses in teaching with teaching theories and methods. Then confirm the problems and methods in teaching practice. Finally draw the conclusion of research problems. This process is the integration of teaching and scientific research support process. It is also the process for teachers to improve the teaching effect and scientific research ability.

College English teachers should improve their scientific research ability through various channels. First of all, we should communicate with experts in the field on some teaching issues and learn their advanced educational concepts and academic ideas so that we can get help for our own scientific research. Secondly, it is necessary to participate in more academic training classes and learn

systematically through these training classes to master research methods, and improve research ability. In addition, college English teachers should constantly find problems in practical teaching, and form their own opinions based on their own teaching practices by repeatedly reading a large number of targeted literature, so as to play a more effective guiding role in teaching.

### Summary

Teachers are the foundation of education. As well-known Educator Tao Xingzhi once said “ The moral character of teachers is not only the need to regulate their own behavior, but more importantly, the need to educate students; The special of the teacher profession lies in educating people, not only with their own knowledge to educate people, but more importantly with their own moral education, not only through their own language to impart knowledge, but also to use their own soul to shape the soul of students.” College English teachers in the new era should have a noble moral character, leading students’ ideological and moral development, more to have the ability to education and to shape students into talents needed by the times. College English teachers also need to have profound knowledge, excellent teaching ability and good information literacy and strong scientific research consciousness and ability. only in this way can they adapt to the new requirements. Only develop from these aspects can college English teachers be qualified in the new era.

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