

A Study on Foreign Languages Talent-cultivation Models Under the Background of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Collaborative Development Strategy

Bo Du ^a, Jing Zhang ^b, Yan Zhang ^c

College of Foreign Languages, Agricultural University of Hebei, Baoding 071001, China

^aDubo80@126.com, ^b12520359@qq.com, ^c1301683942@qq.com

Abstract

The development of market economy, the progress of science and technology, the enhancement of comprehensive national strength, is increasingly decided on the quantity and quality of talents. Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei collaborative development strategy has brought unprecedented opportunities and challenges for foreign language talent development in Hebei Province. This paper analyzes the current problems existing in the foreign language talent cultivation in Hebei Province and puts forward innovative foreign language talent-cultivation models under the background of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei collaborative development strategy.

Keywords

Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei collaborative development strategy, Foreign languages talents, Cultivation model.

1. Introduction

Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei collaborative development has been a national development strategy, included in the focal points of economic work in 2015 in China. It refers to a wide range of economic development mode under joint development model. Ultimately, economic development depends on the cultivation of the talent, and meanwhile the coordinated development of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei also needs a lot of talent training, especially applied talents with a professional quality and proficiency in English.

2. Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei collaborative development offers opportunities and challenges for cultivating foreign languages talents

In 2005, "Cooperation Agreement of Talent Development Integration in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region" agreed that 3 provinces and cities collaborated on cultivating of talents shortage; talents exchange and sharing top talents. In 2009, Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei education cooperation agreement was signed, which further promoted a series of measures on cooperatively-run university such as postgraduate exchange, mutual recognition of credits. In May 2011, "Talent Cooperation Framework Agreement in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region" was signed, which marked the beginning of talent cooperation project. All the agreements have provided policy guarantee for talent development in Hebei Province.

On the other hand, colleges and universities are still confronted with talent cultivation imbalance, and especially foreign language talents concentrated in Beijing and Tianjin. As a political and cultural center, Beijing has plentiful foreign language talent resources; Tianjin, as an important city in the north, owns a long history of education and strong industry, so talents are dominant. Hebei Province is adjacent to Beijing, but foreign language talents are short and the potential of foreign language talents needs further elaboration. Furthermore, due to the regional economy still has the characteristic of administrative boundaries, which greatly affects development and utilization of foreign language talent resources. Many administrative factors, such as household, archives housing, social security system, restrict the talent flow. Therefore, how to promote resource flow of foreign language talents is an important challenge.

3. The main problems of foreign language talents cultivation in Hebei Province

Foreign-language departments were surveyed in 15 colleges and universities in Hebei Province. The survey has shown there is contradiction between talents quantity and quality, and talent training couldn't satisfy social demand. The main performances are as follows.

3.1 Unreasonable curriculum system of foreign language

In recent years, "ring around Beijing and Tianjin and the Bohai driven strategy" has been actively promoting, and significantly speeding up the economic pace of Hebei Province. The provincial foreign trade import and export gross annual growth of 21%, the export scale exceeded \$20 billion, the average annual growth of 15.6%, and ranked the country's top ten. With the adjustment of industrial structure in Hebei province and implementation of "ring around Beijing and Tianjin and the Bohai driven strategy", the export-oriented economic development momentum of foreign language talents demand continued to increase. However, "Chinese college students' employment report in 2012" published by Mycos Research Institute, the third party survey institution, put English major into professional employment card warning. Research group found that foreign language curriculum is one of the important reasons.

To start with, foreign language curriculum still follows the traditional mode of teaching; profession and curriculum are basically similar; update speed of course content often lags behind in development speed of discipline domain knowledge. In addition, in languages, curriculum in most colleges is too narrow, focusing on English, Japanese, which lead to the lack of other languages talents. Finally, most colleges just offer foreign language and literature courses and have been unable to get rid of the traditional education mode and the impact of foreign language teaching mode, which result in a single knowledge structure of foreign language talents and high-end talent gap.

3.2 The practice of foreign language teaching shortage

Most foreign language classes attach importance to classroom theory teaching instead of language practice. On one hand, foreign language practice is short of class hours. Most departments arrange internships for students just in the 2nd semester of 4th year, but in this period, students have to finish graduation thesis and graduation examination and so on, resulting in some students do not pay attention to practice. On the other hand, due to some colleges have few enough connections to society and enterprises and lack of social practice base, so foreign language major students have few internship opportunities in foreign-owned company, rarely engage in relevant work with foreign language such as foreign trade, conference, tourism, translation, resulting to fail to improve students' language application ability.

3.3 Weak teacher resources

Most foreign language teachers in colleges and universities in Hebei Province, graduating from academic institutions, are good at teaching Basic English, such as linguistics, British and American literature course, but professional background is relatively single. Most of the teachers worked in the colleges upon graduation, so they are lack of practical experience, and even have not it at all. In addition, the teachers have few opportunities for mid-career studies, resulting into obsolete education concept, outdated teaching methods, etc. Therefore, it is difficult to meet the requirements of current training of applied talents.

4. Foreign languages talents cultivation model under the background of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei collaborative development strategy

4.1 Optimize the curriculum system, update the teaching content.

Under the background of the coordinated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, the society demands for diversity and compound foreign language talents, especially for increasing high-level language talents with strong practice ability. The curriculum of the foreign language departments in Hebei Province should follow the principles of knowledge and capacity, so the students can be trained as opening talents complex talents and creative talents. Our education aims at combining language

knowledge with professional knowledge, which not only can improve the professional knowledge level of the students, but also allows students to learn language through language acquisition in professional courses, consolidate language ability and improve of language skills

4.2 Increase teaching practice

Practice is an important part of the foreign language teaching. First of all, the traditional teaching mode should be changed, and new teaching approaches should be student-centered and activity-based, engaging students actively in the learning process, the teacher just being the guider and the designer. With heuristic, guidance-cases, enquiry-based and discussion-based teaching methods used, students can improve English application abilities in a real working environment. Moreover, the traditional conclusive evaluation-paper examination should be thoroughly changed. The assessment should be a formative assessment system focusing on competency and combining process assessment and comprehensive assessment. In addition, due to abundant education resource and developed industries, there are numerous practice opportunities in Beijing and Tianjin, such as large trade fair, a variety of domestic and international sports events, volunteer activities and foreign companies. Foreign language students in Hebei Province should make the best of practice opportunities. Finally, colleges should work with enterprises, hire employees to guide students properly, and cultivate talents together. Student's study enthusiasm can be improved amazingly. The earlier students touch society, the earlier they feel the difficulty of the foreign language work and necessary skills.

4.3 Build up the ranks of teachers

On teachers and talent intelligence resources, some effective measures should be taken in order to improve the overall quality of the faculty of foreign language talents in Hebei Province, such as establishing foreign language talent exchange market in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei regions, encouraging top talents to lecture, assigning young teachers to study or enroll in degree programs in top foreign language universities, such as Beijing Foreign Studies University, Tianjin foreign language institute. Meanwhile, colleges and universities teachers in different regions can carry out jointly the teaching reform, team up for research subject application, and establish an expert information database Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei regions, on the basis of complementary advantages to promote pragmatic cooperation.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the foreign language talents cultivation in Hebei Province colleges is closely related to Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei collaborative development strategy. Colleges should seize the opportunity, build effective talent cultivating mode, develop applied foreign language talents, and maximize practical ability to achieve the optimal allocation of education resources in colleges and universities as well as truly serve the purpose of the coordinated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei.

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