

Review on English Newspaper's Application in College English Teaching in China Within Latest Ten Years

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Abstract

Based on a survey of research papers concerning English newspaper and College English teaching published in domestic journals from 2007-2017, this paper reviews the achievements of English newspaper's application in College English teaching, analyzes their features and indicates the major problems in the previous research, and outlines the directions for future study.

Keywords

English newspaper; college English; Chinadaily.

1. Introduction

In 2013, president Xi Jinping firstly introduced "Belt and Road Initiative". A key factor contributing to its realization is to put forward a channel between languages and cultures. English, as a most frequently used international language, effectively secures a bridge of this measure's practice. With our country's endeavor in accelerating globalization, there's an increasing demand in international talents with comprehensive abilities. Accordingly, universities and colleges, as talents' supply sides, should carry out relevant teaching reforms, especially the reform and innovation of teaching objectives and curriculum design in College English teaching. Applying English newspaper to College English teaching deploys teaching content. Furthermore, that allows for keeping pace with the times and meet market's demand. Based on a survey of research papers concerning English newspaper and College English teaching published in domestic journals from 2007-2017, this paper reviews the achievements of English newspaper's application in College English teaching, analyzes these achievements' characteristics, indicates the major problems in the previous research. Finally, directions for the future study are shared.

2. Literature Review

From varieties of perspectives, domestic researchers have done a lot work in the study of English newspaper's application in English teaching, according to the articles searched in CNKI from the year 2007 to 2017.

There's a rise in the total number of articles each year. The searched key words for Table1 are "English newspaper" and "teaching"; and the searched key words for Table2 are "English newspaper" and "College English teaching".

Table 1: Number of articles searched in CNKI (2007~2017)

year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	total
number	82	68	84	49	76	155	181	173	234	190	176	1468

In Table1, application of English newspaper in teaching is becoming increasingly popular and recognized.

Table 2: Number of articles searched in CNKI (2007~2017)

year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	total
number	12	10	10	6	7	13	18	14	17	17	13	137

In Table2, articles on the application of English newspaper in College English teaching are evenly distributed in the past ten years, but relevant studies are not many, with only a total number of 137 in the past ten years.

Ma Lingling studied how to employ English newspaper in the leading-in stage in College English teaching (Ma, 2007). Furthermore, she supplied her idea on English newspaper's positive influence in teaching, as well as problems to pay attention to. Starting from characteristics, necessities and implementing measures, Wei Min and Jiang Yi (2009) discussed English newspaper's application in College English teaching. In order to stimulate learners' interest and thus, to optimize teaching, Duan Xinhe researched how to make use of English newspaper to broaden the vision for both learning and teaching (Duan, 2010). By resorting to questionnaires and interview, Ying Jianfen investigated the current situation of English newspaper reading, and suggestions were shared according to data analysis (Ying,2009). Different from the above researchers, Wu Zhijie reflected on his own English newspaper reading classes. He summarized features of his application, dug some existing problems, and proposed relevant measures (Wu, 2017).

3. Features of Existing Studies

3.1 Systematicness

Obviously, globalization is in an increasing demand for interdisciplinary talents, and so is market economy. The original single-functional language professionals couldn't meet society's demand. Apart from a solid foundation on language, interdisciplinary knowledge is a necessity as well. In response to market's demand, English teaching should make some adjustments, too. Compared to a comprehensive ability cultivation, existing studies focused more on specific aspects of English learning and teaching. Take teaching content for an example, present studies concentrate more on reading and vocabulary mainly, neglecting to build a systematic approach to accomplish an overall individual education.

3.2 Practicability

New era creates new challenges. Persistence in acquiring new knowledge is one way out. Accordingly, development of language teaching should get reformed to keep pace with times. The final goal of learning and teaching is to put what's learnt into practice. Existing studies lack in the effectiveness to teach in accordance with market's demand. In the other words, teaching failed to target at the practicability and authenticity of teaching content and teaching activities. Previous teaching stays heavily at linguistic level, failing to recognize other related research. Cross-cultural communication is a case in point.

4. Directions for Future Study

China is on the way of "Belt and Road Initiative", which poses both opportunities and challenges for College English teaching. In future studies, teaching is advised to follow the trend of times. Chinadaily is a national newspaper, which is a bridge with home and abroad in aspects of politics, economy, culture, society and ecology, posses every advantage to enter classroom. Therefore, based on "Five-Pronged Overall Plan" and the resources from Chinadaily.com.cn, the author suggests the integration of five skills --- listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating into College English teaching. By reforming teaching content, method and assessment, a curriculum design can be introduced aiming at improving effectiveness and quality of college English teaching.

Acknowledgements

Phased research result of Year 2017 Teaching Reform project of University of Science and Technology Liaoning (XJGZD201703)

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