

Research on Employment of English Major Graduates

--A Case Study of English Major Graduates of Guangdong University of Science & Technology in Recent Three Years

Yali Qiang, Jinjun Chen, Zhiming Liu

Guangdong University of Science & Technology, China.

Abstract

In recent three years, English major graduates of Guangdong University of Science & Technology have been employed mainly in seven fields. There have been problems in the process of employment. The reasons are as follows: incorrect self-orientation and conservative employment ideas, weak major knowledge and unreasonable curriculums. Scientific and reasonable solutions to these problems will help colleges to realize the talent cultivation objectives and help graduates get better employment.

Keywords

Guangdong University of Science & Technology; English major; Graduates; Employment.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the employment situation of college graduates is grim, and employment has always been a social concern. English major of Guangdong University of Science & Technology (GUST) provides various practical talents to all walks of life every year. Over the years, the employment rate has been rising steadily, and in the past three years, it has been more than 90% (as shown in the following table). However, behind the stable and high employment rate, through in-depth research, we find that there are still many problems.

Table1 Employment situation of English major graduates in Guangdong University of Science & Technology

Year	Number of graduates (undergraduate)	Number of employment	Employment rate
2015	307	279	90.87%
2016	574	538	93.73%
2017	516	503	97.48%

2. Employment status of English majors in GUST in recent three years

According to the survey and statistics, in the past three years, there are seven major employment directions for English majors from GUST: small and medium-sized enterprises, primary and secondary school teachers, training institutions, graduate studies, going abroad, civil servants, village officials and students for transfer.

Some contradictions exist in the process of English major graduates employment, which mainly compromises the contradiction between the insufficient employment preparation of graduates and the rigid demand of employment positions, high expectation of graduates and low salary level, and graduates' major and job demand.

3. The reason analysis of employment contradiction

3.1 Incorrect self-orientation and conservative employment ideas

In the Employment Report of Chinese College Students in 2015 exclusively written by Mycos Research Institute and published by Social Sciences Academic Press, English major was listed as a

"red card warning major" in undergraduate employment in 2015. Across the country, English majors graduates, like most other majors graduates, are struggling to find jobs.

As a newly-established undergraduate college, GUST has no obvious advantage over students majoring in English from other colleges. However, there are still many graduates who believe that they should enter formal public primary and secondary schools or other large enterprises, or even enter established public institutions for employment, which is in line with their status as university graduates [1]. "High salary, stable job and close to home" are still their criteria for choosing a career, but they are also an important reason for their difficulty in finding a job [2]. Therefore, on the one hand, even if the school employment departments do their best to contact employers to recruit, or provide some jobs, but often because of the distance from home or pay is not high and no one chooses. On the other hand, in the job market, college graduates often face challenges from other regions and outside when choosing a career, and their inferiority and shyness will also affect their employment [3].

3.2 Weak major knowledge

One of the training objectives of English major in GUST is to cultivate applied talents for local economic, social and regional development. Applied English talents should not only master English listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating skills, but also have some knowledge of a certain direction or field on this basis [4]. According to the survey, as an application-oriented university, GUST still has some deficiencies in the training of application-oriented talents for English majors, such as poor English pronunciation and intonation, and not fluent oral expression. In the aspect of writing, some students are still unable to master and use the common format of practical writing. In terms of translation, some students do not have enough professional training and practical training, which is a manifestation of the lack of solid professional foundation of English majors. In terms of students' practical training, GUST does not have a broad base for English majors, nor does it have rich practical experience.

3.3 Unreasonable curriculums

As far as English major graduates are concerned, many graduates report that their major direction is not clear enough. The school's English curriculum is oriented towards business. Although the school has opened some business courses, these courses still cannot meet the employment requirements of the market for business talents. GUST is positioned as an application-oriented university, so foreign language majors should constantly improve their curriculum provision in response to this change, constantly increase business-related courses, and improve the talent training plan, so as to further enhance the employment advantages of English majors and broaden their employment channels.

4. Measures to enhance the employability of English majors in GUST

4.1 Strengthening employment guidance and services

Today, English majors are no longer in popular demand, and the employment pressure English majors are facing is increasing day by day. For this, it is very important for teachers to guide graduates in employment choice. First of all, school employment guidance teachers should offer employment guidance lectures to English majors to help them establish a correct "employment first, then choose a career" concept of employment [5]. At the same time, they need to encourage students to carry forward the spirit of hard struggle, eyes down, committed to starting from the grassroots. Thirdly, they should strengthen the ideological education of the major, guide the students to fully understand the characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of the major, and form the consciousness of choosing a career as soon as possible, so as to avoid the mistake of "cramming at the eleventh hour" when they are about to graduate. Finally, according to the market demand, take practical measures to expand the channels for students to choose careers. Through the talent market, job fair, school-enterprise cooperation, employment agencies, network, alumni resources, graduates' own social relations and internship and training base, etc., the school should establish a variety of employment

channels with employers, to provide students with timely and effective employment information services.

4.2 Laying a solid professional foundation and accumulating rich practical experience

Help graduates find out the reasons for their failure to find jobs, and guide them to continuously improve various skills in employment practice and work, including professional knowledge and ability (professional skills), self-management ability, transferable skills (general skills). In addition, college students should actively participate in school or community organizations, the enterprise and other activities, to accumulate practical experience for their future work.

4.3 Optimizing the curriculum and cultivating application-oriented talents

At present, GUST, as an application-oriented university, must optimize the curriculum in order to cultivate application-oriented talents of higher quality and maintain the advantage of being faster and better in the fierce market competition. In the survey, we found that many graduates complained that the curriculum structure of the school was not very reasonable and hoped to further adjust it. In the curriculum setting of English major, students should be offered courses of business English translation, business etiquette and other related courses in addition to regular skills and professional knowledge for English major, so as to better cultivate their business talents and lay a solid foundation for the cultivation of business applied talents.

4.4 Establishing multiple employment platforms to increase employment opportunities for graduates

The university should strengthen the construction of graduates' employment network, constantly improve the employment website and information database, build information platform, earnestly do a good job in the collection, collation and release of graduates' supply and demand information, and provide reference and service for graduates and employers to make two-way choices. Organize and conduct online seminars to further improve the means of service and improve the quality of service. Now many students from all over the talent network search, looking for their favorite jobs. Of course, large-scale job fairs are also a way for graduates to seek jobs. Every year, GUST holds several job fairs in summer and winter for graduates, inviting employers to participate in them, so as to provide a platform for our graduates to find jobs.

Whether through the Internet, job fairs or other channels, the college has established multiple employment platforms for graduates so that students can better achieve employment. As graduates, they must learn how to collect information from various employment platforms, learn how to screen, so that their advantages in the workplace as much as possible are played and showed.

5. Conclusion

Although English major graduates of GUST in the recent three years have completed their employment, the problems they have reflected in the employment process are also worthy of our reflection. By reviewing the employment trend of English major graduates of GUST in the past three years, this paper probes into the problems in the employment process of graduates, analyzes the causes of the problems, and puts forward some suggestions for improvement, in the hope that it will be helpful to the employment of English major graduates in GUST in the future.

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