

The Application of Traditional Chinese Culture in University French Teaching



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Abstracts: As one of the official languages of the United Nations, French has an important position in international communication. Traditional language teaching methods often neglect the importance of cultural elements, resulting in students' difficulty in understanding and accepting French culture while learning French, thus affecting the learning effect. China has a rich history and cultural heritage, and these traditional cultural elements not only reflect the historical development and national characteristics of China but also the spiritual support of the Chinese people. How to integrate these cultural elements into French language teaching and make it a powerful tool to enhance learning effect and interest is a challenging task. This paper discusses the application of traditional Chinese culture in French teaching, aiming to improve students' language learning and enrich their cultural knowledge. Specific application strategies include integrating traditional cultural elements into the design of teaching content, designing classroom activities, organizing cross-cultural exchanges, and innovative teaching methods. Integrating traditional Chinese culture into French language teaching can enhance students' learning interest and efficiency, and also help improve their intercultural communication skills.

Keywords: Chinese traditional culture; French teaching; intercultural teaching

Introduction

With the continuous advancement of globalization, learning one or more foreign languages has become a necessary skill for global citizens. As a language with a large number of speakers in the world, French has attracted much attention in its teaching research and practice. In the process of teaching French, students often encounter problems such as insufficient motivation and difficulties in cultural understanding, which hinder the improvement of teaching effectiveness to a certain extent. As a country with a long history and rich culture, China's traditional culture is rich in connotation and contains various philosophies of life and moral concepts, and it is also an important element that attracts the attention of the world. So is it possible to take advantage of these rich cultural resources and integrate them into French teaching, to

improve the quality and effect of teaching and enhance students' interest and motivation in learning? This is a question worth exploring. By combining traditional culture with modern teaching, a new and effective teaching path can be sought.

1. Importance and Challenges of French Teaching

1.1 Importance of French teaching

French is one of the most widely used languages in the world, one of the six working languages of the United Nations, and used as an official language or educational language in many countries and regions. Mastering French not only helps learners enter broader career fields but also enhances one's global perspective and intercultural communication skills. French is the original language of many important works of literature, movies, and art. Learning French provides a more direct and accurate understanding of these works, which can lead to a deeper understanding of the culture of France and other

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French-speaking countries. French continues to be important in many academic fields, especially in the humanities and social sciences. Mastery of French can provide better access to and exchange of academic information and broaden the horizons of academic research (Liu , 2019). Mastery of the French language can provide more employment opportunities, especially in the fields of international trade, diplomacy, tourism, education, and translation. Many globalized companies and organizations also give preference to multilingual candidates. As the official language of many countries and international organizations, the importance of French cannot be ignored in international political, economic, and cultural exchanges. Teaching French can help develop a pool of internationally-minded individuals and enhance ties and exchanges with French-speaking countries. In addition, multilingual learning has been shown to improve cognitive abilities, enhance memory, improve problem-solving and critical thinking skills, as well as slow down cognitive decline. Therefore, teaching French is of great importance, whether for employment, academic research, or personal development.

1.2 Challenges of Teaching French

Despite the many importance of teaching French, there are some challenges in its actual implementation. First of all, the grammatical structure and pronunciation system of French is quite different from that of Chinese, which will affect students' motivation and effect of learning. Secondly, although French is one of the most widely used languages in the world, in real life, especially in China, there are fewer opportunities to get in touch with French, and students lack sufficient language practice environments. Again, the degree of understanding and acceptance of the culture of France and other French-speaking countries has a significant impact on learners' motivation and language absorption. Due to cultural differences, many students encounter difficulties in understanding and accepting French culture. Finally, the choice of teaching materials and the innovation of teaching methods are also key factors affecting the teaching of

French. How to choose and use teaching materials that are both academic and interesting, and how to adopt effective teaching methods to stimulate students' interest in learning are all problems that teachers need to consider and solve in the teaching process. Therefore, while recognizing the importance of French language teaching, educators need to pay attention to and cope with the challenges it faces and seek more effective teaching strategies.

2. The Value of Chinese Traditional Culture in French Teaching and Learning

Traditional Chinese culture usually refers to a kind of culture that has been formed in the process of long-term historical development and has influenced the way of life, way of thinking, and values of the Chinese people. It is a unique expression of China's thousands of years of civilization history, including diverse and rich elements, such as the thought systems of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism, art forms such as poetry, calligraphy, painting, music and drama, physical and mental health concepts such as traditional Chinese medicine, health care, and yoga, as well as living customs such as tea culture, food culture, and etiquette culture. It is not only a system of knowledge, but also a sum of values, lifestyles, and ways of thinking. For example, traditional culture emphasizes "teaching without class", advocates the friendship between teachers and students, and promotes both virtue and talent, which has a profound impact on the concept and method of education.

Studies have shown that integrating students' mother cultures into language teaching can improve their motivation and learning effectiveness. Traditional culture is the embodiment of the spirit of the Chinese nation, the historical memory and cultural self-confidence of the Chinese nation, and the foundation of the Chinese nation's self-identity and self-orientation, so its integration into French teaching can play a great value. Traditional culture is rich in philosophy and has far-reaching historical deposits, and its integration into French teaching can enrich the teaching content and make students

understand French deeply, thus improving the teaching effect (Yang, 2023). At the same time, the integration of traditional cultural elements such as poems and stories into French teaching also enables students to understand and appreciate Chinese culture more deeply while learning French, thus stimulating their interest in learning. Such integration also helps to promote Sino-French cultural exchanges and increase China's international influence. Through the teaching of French, educators, and students, as a medium, can spread traditional culture around the world, so that more people can know and understand China, thus promoting cultural exchanges between China and France, and even between China and the West (Zhang, 2017). The study of traditional culture is not limited to China, and its universal value has been widely recognized by the international academic community. Integrating Chinese traditional culture into French language teaching helps to cultivate students' international vision and lay the foundation for their future international communication and cooperation. Therefore, Chinese traditional culture is of great value in French teaching, which is worthy of our further research and exploration.

3. The application path of Chinese traditional culture in French teaching

3.1 Teaching content design, integration of traditional cultural elements

Integrating traditional Chinese cultural elements into the design of teaching content is a practical and innovative teaching method. Teachers can introduce traditional Chinese poems, famous stories, philosophical ideas, and art forms into French teaching. When teaching vocabulary and grammar, they can combine the expressions of ancient poems, so that students can understand the deep meaning of the poems and at the same time understand and master the corresponding expressions in French. Historical stories and folklore are also a good resource. By telling these stories, students can not only learn more vocabulary and expressions but also understand the history and cultural background of

China. For example, students can retell the storyline in *Journey to the West* in French, thus deepening their cultural and linguistic understanding (Liu, 2022). In addition, traditional art forms can be introduced, including calligraphy, painting, music, and dance. Students can be asked to explain the strokes and meanings of calligraphy in French or tell the background and story of a Chinese painting. These activities not only stimulate students' interest but also provide more opportunities for language practice. Teachers can choose some French teaching materials that integrate traditional Chinese culture or write their lesson plans to ensure that the teaching content is both academic and interesting (Wang, 2022). On the whole, integrating traditional cultural elements into French teaching can not only improve students' learning efficiency but also enrich their cultural horizons and improve their intercultural communication skills.

3.2 Classroom activity design to increase French teaching practice

Designing classroom activities with traditional culture as the theme is another effective way to enhance students' learning commitment and language skills. This approach can promote students' use of French in practice while enhancing their understanding of traditional culture. Role-playing activities are organized in the classroom to recreate ancient historical events. This will hone students' speaking skills while helping them to understand the context of Chinese history and culture. Organize traditional cultural demonstrations, such as calligraphy demonstrations, Chinese painting demonstrations, tea performances, etc., and ask them to introduce and explain in French. This will not only enhance students' ability to express themselves in French but also improve their understanding and appreciation of traditional culture. Some interactive discussion topics on traditional culture can be set for students to discuss in French. Discussing ancient philosophical ideas, for example, can enhance students' French speaking and listening skills as well as their critical thinking skills. By organizing cultural experiences, such as cooking Chinese food, and

visiting historical sites or museums, students can describe and express themselves in French. This can provide a rich language practice environment and also allow students to understand and experience Chinese culture more intuitively (Zhang, 2018). The above classroom activities are designed to closely integrate French teaching and traditional culture and help students better master the French language.

3.3 Organize cross-cultural exchanges to improve French application ability

Organizing cross-cultural exchanges is an effective way to improve students' French application ability, which not only helps students improve their language practice ability but also helps to improve their understanding of Chinese and French cultures. Teachers can let students have conversations and exchanges with French-speaking students through the language partner program. During the exchanges, students can introduce traditional cultures, such as festivals, customs, and arts, and listen to others' presentations of their countries' cultures, which can enhance their language skills and broaden their cultural horizons. Lectures and seminars on traditional Chinese culture are organized for students to report and speak in French. This will not only improve their public speaking skills but also their ability to study and understand Chinese culture. Students are encouraged to participate in academic visits and exchange programs in French-speaking countries. There they can gain a deeper understanding of French culture and also have the opportunity to introduce and explain Chinese culture in French (JY, 2015). Through project cooperation with schools or institutions in French-speaking countries, they can jointly study Chinese history, culture, art forms, etc. This not only provides an actual language practice environment but also enhances students' intercultural collaboration skills. The above cross-cultural exchange activities can help students improve their French application skills, and at the same time enable them to better understand and appreciate Chinese culture, as well as the cultures of France and other French-speaking countries.

3.4 Innovative teaching methods to promote learning interest and efficiency

Innovative teaching methods, especially the use of modern technology, can stimulate students' interest in learning while improving learning efficiency. Utilizing multimedia technology such as video, animation, and audio, complex language knowledge and cultural content can be presented in a lively and interesting way (Shi, 2022). For example, animated short films about traditional Chinese crafts can be produced to guide students to describe and discuss them in French. Using online learning platforms, educators can provide a variety of interactive learning resources, such as e-textbooks, online quizzes, and discussion forums. Students can learn independently at any place and at any time, which not only improves the flexibility of learning but also improves the efficiency of learning. By using gamification design, it can make learning more interesting. Designing French learning games about Chinese culture can help students learn new vocabulary and expressions in the game, which can increase their motivation to learn. With the help of virtual reality or augmented reality technology, a more authentic cultural experience can be provided. Utilizing online exhibitions of ancient Chinese artifacts released by museums can allow students to explore and learn in a virtual environment, which can improve their cultural understanding and interest in learning. Through these innovative teaching methods, traditional Chinese culture can be integrated into French language teaching in a more attractive way, which can improve students' learning interest and efficiency.

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to explore the application of Chinese traditional culture in French teaching and put forward corresponding teaching strategies, to provide new perspectives and methods for French teaching, as well as provide a new way to promote the dissemination and exchange of Chinese traditional culture. The application of Chinese traditional culture in French teaching undoubtedly

enhances the richness and depth of teaching. Through the design of teaching content and classroom activities, students' language practice and intercultural understanding have been significantly improved. At the same time, innovative teaching methods further stimulate students' interest and enthusiasm in learning. On the whole, it seems that Chinese traditional culture not only enhances the cultural connotation of French language teaching but also provides students with a broader perspective and a rich learning experience, which has a far-reaching impact on both their language skills and cultural literacy. In the future, the effectiveness of the existing teaching strategies and methods should be continuously tracked evaluated, adjusted, and optimized. It is believed that in continuous exploration and practice, a more effective and comprehensive way can be found to better integrate traditional Chinese culture into foreign language teaching and make a greater contribution to the improvement of students' language skills and cross-cultural understanding.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to this work.

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How to Cite: Li, X. & Zheng, L. (2023). The Application of Traditional Chinese Culture in University French Teaching. *Contemporary Education and Teaching Research*, 04(09), 450-454.
<https://doi.org/10.61360/BoniCETR232014870907>