

College Civic Education in the Age of New Media: The Role of English Instruction



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Yu Han^{1,*}, Wenxin Yang¹

¹Dehong Teachers' College, China

Abstract: Ideological and political education can be both facilitated and hindered by the current media landscape. Using a novel teaching concept in today's modern media environment, English teaching, ideology, and politics can be linked to reaching a win-win situation in order to further promote ideological education. It is a ground-breaking topic to examine the role of English instruction in college ideological education in the age of new media.

Keywords: ideological and political education; new media environment; teaching concept

1. Introduction

In order to examine the significance of English teaching in the ideological and political education of colleges and universities in the new media environment, this article begins with the characteristics of ideological and political education in the new media environment. As the article continues, it explores some of the challenges faced by ideological and political education in the new media age. Finally, it organizes some effective methods that will allow English teaching to act as ideological education in a digital age.

2. In the new media environment, the characteristics of ideological and political education in higher education

Ideological and political education in higher education will show different characteristics in different environmental backgrounds. In the past, ideological and political education was relatively closed, but nowadays ideological education in the new media environment has very open characteristics. Two features of the new media have emerged for ideological and political education: one is the continuous change from closed to open, reflecting varied characteristics of ideological and political education; the second is the switch from traditional end-of-world education to activity-based education, strengthening the interactive links between teachers and students in the classroom; theoretical teaching also moves toward

practicality, another feature of ideological and political education in the new media environment. This is another obvious feature of ideological and political education in the new media environment.

2.1 Change from closed to open

Today's new media environment makes ideological education very evident. The characteristics of information dissemination have also become varied, and the content of information is also varied, showing a diversified development trend. The game is the widespread use of cell phones and mobile terminals such as computers, which provides the impetus for the development of ideological and political education in China. There are relatively few ideological and political means and methods used in traditional education. School is usually the primary educational unit, and two classes and tutor-assisted education are the main ones, with classrooms and traditional media mainly providing access to relevant educational information. In today's new media environment, the Internet has slowly replaced the traditional means of media information dissemination and has slowly become the main way for people to obtain information. The network has very open characteristics, and also promotes ideological and political education, from closed to open slowly.

2.2 Change from duck-fill teaching to interactive teaching method

The ideological and political education on the transmission has closed characteristics, which makes experiential education slowly become the main teaching

Corresponding Author: Yu Han
Dehong Teachers' College, China.
Email: 542396212@qq.com

method of ideological and political education in colleges and universities (Pang, 2020). However, in today's new media environment, ideological and political education has openness, and every college student has become a variety of ways to obtain information, which has laid a good educational foundation for the interactive way of ideological and political education. With today's information technology network, students' access to ideological and political education is no longer limited to the classroom, and students can take advantage of the rich resources and convenience of the Internet to communicate with their ideological and political teachers in the classroom. This strengthens the activities between teachers and students or between students and students, and further extends the spatiality of ideological and political education, making it more purposeful in the classroom.

2.3 Change from theoretical teaching to practical teaching

Ideological and political education in higher education is not simply to let students learn about political policies and laws, but also to let them learn to use the knowledge to enrich their own minds and apply what they have learned to practical life (Yang, 2020). Traditionally, ideological and political education focuses only on illusory theoretical aspects such as ideology, which can generally analyze the objective facts of things and further explain objective laws from the perspective of the superstructure. However, relevant research phenomena show that many students have become visually fatigued by this changing trend of ideological education, and even inwardly generated boredom and resistance, and traditionally ideological and political education is not only detached from actual productive life, but also lacks practicality (Yu, 2020). In the new media environment, the principle of ideological and political education is more to the actual needs of students as the core of education, advocating the combination of theory and practice, and advocating the application of learning, reflecting the new era of development of the relevant internal need to avoid the traditional dogmatism, so as to ensure the practicality of ideological and political education in daily life.

3. The problem of ideological and political education in today's new media environment

The new media has brought development opportunities for ideological and political education, but also problems. The network itself is virtual, and it is very difficult to distinguish between true and false information, which makes many college students less able to distinguish bad information and resist bad temptation, so they are very easy to be poisoned by such bad network information (Yi, 2019). According to the relevant research, English information on the Internet accounts for about 90% of the total information in English, and much of this English

information comes from the United States, but the total amount of information output and input in China only accounts for 0.1% and 0.5%. In this regard, students are more likely to be influenced by foreign migration, and many of the messages are from foreign countries, which generally carry strong political overtones and are aimed at defending the interests of Western societies, and some of these messages may even contain anti-Chinese statements. This kind of information will influence young people in a subtle way, and many college students will develop wrong values that distort reality. This will further affect their physical and mental health. The openness of information on the Internet expands students' access to different levels of people and different kinds of information, which makes the relationship in society more complicated and widens the distance between students and teachers. If political teachers cannot accurately grasp the psychological characteristics and trends of students, they cannot further grasp the dynamics of each student's thinking, and it will be very difficult to fulfil their supervisory responsibilities, not to mention to play the role of correct ideological education (Xu, 2018). Therefore, the development of new media must pay attention to the adverse effects of its related problems, to take effective measures at the right time, in order to fully exploit interactive media and self-media to bridge the distance between teachers and students, while at the same time reducing the negative impact of network information on their threshold.

4. English teaching in the new media environment to influence the positive and effective methods of ideological education

It is difficult from the perspective of different disciplines to implement a new teaching concept in order to achieve a win-win situation between disciplines and subjects in the current ideological education process. In the process of English teaching in colleges and universities, many aspects can have a close relationship with ideological and political education, such as the function of nurturing people in teaching, which basically are in line with each other, and the teaching contents can complement each other. However, English teaching in colleges and universities, whether from English majors' listening, speaking, reading, writing or non-English majors' class time, is not only long but also has a large number of class time. In the actual English teaching, it should be appropriately integrated into ideological and political education content, so as to integrate ideological education and college English education, so as to further promote English teaching and ideology and politics together (Liu, 2017).

4.1 Further strengthen the ideological and political education outside the English classroom

In today's new media environment, intercourse, media for self-media provides effective materials for innovative ideas of English teaching in colleges and universities, thus further optimizing the interaction, not only for students' English learning from the simple language learning process to the actual life use of the knowledge learned and the creation of processing of the relevant knowledge learned. At the same time, effective ideological and political education cannot only be placed in the classroom but can also look beyond the classroom, where there are many educational contents that are even more important than those inside the classroom. There are many educational contents that are even more important than those inside the classroom. The effective results of teaching classrooms are very limited because of the constraints of class time. Yet some students use multimedia to learn outside the classroom, and it is important to pay attention to ideological and political education outside the classroom. English teachers should communicate with ideological and political teachers to create a set of programs for students to cultivate their own ideology and politics outside the classroom so that each student can continue to learn ideology and politics and develop good learning methods and habits outside the classroom.

4.2 Supplementing ideological and political education with English learning knowledge

By giving positive and negative examples, it is easier for students to understand some knowledge. Using English knowledge to supplement the content of ideological education can further help students to view Western culture correctly. In the past, teachers have been more likely to teach positive examples of what is right and to avoid talking about what is wrong. In this one-sided way of emphasizing only the correct theory, it is easy for students to become averse to learning and gradually lose their educational efficacy, so teachers should use effective English content to let students know what is right and what is wrong, so as to further stimulate their patriotism and improve students' ability to distinguish right from wrong. Only by understanding the importance of ideological and political education can students form correct values, and their academic attitudes will be correct so that they can further view Western culture correctly and easily accept the essence of China's traditional excellent culture, and avoid the distorted psychology of flattering foreigners.

4.3 Integrating ideological and political contents into English teaching

It will further improve the ideological and political education in colleges and universities to promote the overall development of college students, ideological and political science is a master teacher, not just a tool for teaching, but also shoulders the burden of cultivating people (Y. Liu, 2017). Ideological and political education work should be put in the important position of every

subject, and its correct ideas should be integrated into the study of every subject of college students English teachers offer higher education, they should use the teaching process of language so that students can understand the cultural connotations behind knowledge and thus understand the characteristics of different kinds of literature, and of course, they should train students to look at things around them with a critical attitude, not to worship teachers or textbooks, always be curious in the learning process, and should ask more questions about the subject matter, and English teachers should take into account the content of the textbooks and select selections with ideological and political education, such as stories about exemplary peoples.

In today's new media environment, ideological and political education has become very complicated. The English teachers concerned should make proper use of English resources and create a variety of interactive English learning methods, such as creating online chat rooms, QQ English learning progress groups, WeChat groups in schools, etc. (Xiong & Liu, 2017). In this way, we can expand the space of English classroom, further disengage the ideological and political education in English teaching, and deepen the positive role of new media. According to the English teaching materials, appropriate ideological and political materials can be selected to educate students on the positive as well as the negative side, to teach them the ability to distinguish right from wrong, not to believe in Western speech, to firmly establish their own patriotic feelings, to study hard with the national cause in mind, to promote the excellent traditional national culture of China, and to contribute to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

5. Conclusion

In today's new media environment, the role of English teaching in the ideological education of colleges and universities is very obvious. In the new media environment, clever integration of ideological and political education content into the process of English learning can help English subjects supplement ideological education and avoid the repetition of single educational content. Meanwhile, we should improve the educational system and expand the ideological and political education platform in order to achieve an all-round improvement of the role of ideology and politics outside of the classroom as well.

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Conflict of Interest

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

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