The Mission and Dilemma of College English Teachers in the New Era

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The construction of world-class undergraduate education with Chinese characteristics is a major mission for all college English teachers in today’s era, and a considerable proportion of college English teachers are still in varying degrees of difficulties and bottlenecks. How to quickly achieve self-breakthrough and devote themselves to realizing the dream of serving the country and education is a higher requirement for college teachers at the national level.

Keywords: mission, dilemma, challenge, countermeasure

Introduction

Wu Yan (2019), Director of the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, pointed out that foreign language education in China in the new era shoulders a new mission, and the world’s well-known universities emphasize the importance of equal emphasis on research and teaching. Striving to be competent for the new mission in the big pattern is an urgent task to deal with the crisis. Professor Shu Dingfang pointed out that universities should re-understand the important role of college English teaching and effectively train more outstanding international talents for the country. How to help the national development strategy is a topic that every college English teacher needs to think about and solve.

The Current Dilemma and Its Countermeasures

Jiang Xiaoyan (2019) studied internal factors, such as gender, age, educational background, professional title, and teaching experience; and external factors, such as social, organizational, and professional nature, and found that college English teachers were generally at a moderate or mild level of burnout, and a considerable proportion of them had reached a moderate or high level of burnout. The reason is that the lack of education level, language ability, subject teaching knowledge, and scientific research level leads to the lack of teachers’ value and sense of achievement, while the pressure of teaching workload and teaching requirements as well as the uneven assessment standards and students’ level also lead to the negative state of teachers’ anxiety. And this series of problems cannot be effectively solved in a short time. There is no doubt that this state cannot guarantee the efficient development of college English. Therefore, it is the top priority to optimize the university management system and make various policies more humanistic, democratic, and scientific. It is an urgent task for the university management to reform and improve the evaluation system for teachers and formulate a reasonable incentive guarantee system, so as to fully stimulate the enthusiasm, innovation, and potential of

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teachers. From the level of teachers, to face the challenges of the new era with a positive and optimistic state is the basic quality that a college educator should present. To strengthen psychological construction and enhance the ability to resist pressure is the inevitable way to make oneself invincible. To make practical career planning with lifelong learning as the goal is the fundamental guarantee to meet the challenges and make continuous progress in teaching reflection. To realize the coordination and unity of psychological environment and external environment in the continuous improvement of teaching effect is the basis of realizing high-quality teachers. In the predicament of emotional exhaustion and depersonalization, there are more severe challenges in the future, so improving self-efficacy, exploring their own professional potential, actively changing negative states, adapting to the current situation to make career planning, and multi-means comprehensive internal debugging can fundamentally solve the problem.

Wang Shouren (2018) pointed out that the professional development of foreign language teachers in colleges and universities, that is, the academic aspects, is not satisfactory, for two reasons: One is the lack of strict professional academic training and theoretical literacy; the other is the heavy work and teaching tasks, and they do not have enough time to calm down and conduct in-depth and continuous research. Stuck in this predicament and unable to change, teachers will form a negative consciousness of teachers over time, do not pay attention to the academic frontier and trends, and even ignore the involvement of academic works and papers, thus losing their professional development direction. However, scientific research is the irresistible trend of higher education all over the world, and it is far from enough to invest conscientiously in teaching. Teaching and scientific research must pay equal attention, and only by constantly exploring and researching unknown areas can we creatively broaden the scope and direction of our own development and grow continuously. The only way to avoid being eliminated by the times is not to be limited to the traditional knowledge transfer and skill training, which requires teachers to improve their teaching ability in an all-round way, including professional theory and knowledge ability as well as teaching reform and research ability, so as to achieve common development with students and promote the reform of teaching and learning. With the rapid development of society, knowledge updates are too dizzying. Aging knowledge and repetitive old content need to be constantly renovated. The deep integration of information technology and foreign language education and teaching has reconstructed the teaching system and teaching mode in the new era, and also provided a broader platform and direction for foreign language teachers to innovate their teaching development and professional development. For example, the topics that most foreign language teachers can explore in the deep integration of information technology and foreign language teaching may involve the theoretical construction of the deep integration of information technology and foreign language curriculum, or they can realize the exploration of a new paradigm of foreign language teaching and reform in the information age through active practice, so as to successfully transform from a passive teacher to a solver of various teaching problems and a practitioner of reform in the new era.

The research on the quality of foreign language teachers in China since the beginning of the 21st century found that excellent teachers not only have the advantages of teaching ability and self-development, but also their personality charm, professional spirit, emotional quality, and moral quality. The results of the study on the quality of foreign language teachers from the perspective of students show that students believe that excellent foreign language teachers should possess knowledge, ability, and personality charm. The new era requires outstanding foreign language teachers in universities to demonstrate their personal charm in language communication strategies, social skills, and teacher-student interaction (Y. Liu & P. Liu, 2019). Therefore, to further improve teachers’ own learning ability and reflective consciousness, and to gradually find a sense of identity and enhance
the sense of value in the community of teachers and students are also the only way to gradually become excellent. As college English teachers, interpreting the charm of English from their own unique perspective is an effective way to establish effective communication between teachers and students, shorten the psychological distance with students, and build a community between teachers and students. The teacher-student community is that teachers and students promote knowledge construction and seek common development through cooperation and dialogue. The path is learning, the core is cooperation, and the soul is dialogue. If the teacher’s teaching methods and the way to treat students are appreciated and recognized by students, it is inevitable that the self-identification can be realized through the identification of students, and the sense of value and significance can be continuously obtained, which will realize the virtuous circle of teachers’ teaching and professional development. Further stimulating the internal motivation of teachers’ development is an important issue in the current era. As language teachers, college English teachers’ ability to communicate and exchange is a kind of professional influence. In addition to broadening their academic horizon, improving their academic level, and acquiring new knowledge, skills, and concepts, college English teachers should also use their internal hard strength to stimulate and maintain learners’ learning motivation, enthusiasm, and efficiency. It is both necessary and feasible to guide students to study at any time and at any place, not only in class, but also in an organic and coherent combination of class and extracurricular activities, so as to make use of their personal charm, emotional quality, dedication, and other characteristics to effectively improve learners’ learning motivation in and out of class, increase their involvement in extracurricular learning, and think deeply about the purpose and significance of English learning.

Conclusion

It is the urgent mission of every educator to lead students to devote themselves to study, devote themselves to the pursuit of teaching and educating people, actively develop and cultivate talents, and selflessly devote themselves to education and serving the country. In order to achieve the goal of cultivating international, cross-cultural, and innovative compound foreign language talents for the country, foreign language teachers in colleges and universities should take teaching and educating people as the core, take students as the core in teaching, respect the different personalities of each learner, implement diversified teaching ideas, overcome slack, and constantly explore and enrich their teaching practice, so as to improve their teaching ability. It includes strengthening communication with peers, actively participating in teaching training, strengthening scientific research ability, comprehensively improving their own quality, constantly reflecting and honing on specific details, such as subject knowledge, language expression, curriculum development and textbook processing, teaching implementation and classroom organization incentive, teaching evaluation and research, so as to fully arm themselves. Only by gaining the trust of students with the attitude of learning and the love of teaching and subtly influencing them can they provide the direction and spiritual strength to overcome the pressure of learning, achieve self-growth in the ever-changing trend of international education development, and make due contributions to the construction of high-level undergraduate education and the overall improvement of talent cultivation ability.

References


