

On English Teaching From the Scope of Mainland China

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In China, English is required in every school of China and many achievements have been made in this part of the world. The English level of Chinese has been greatly improved but the problems still exist in this country. Communicative approach and many other successful teaching methods have been employed; however, the problems in English teaching still occur and last to the present time. Many efforts have been made to have outstanding and successful results in English teaching. We therefore hope much success will be achieved as quickly as possible.

Keywords: English teaching, success, methods

Introduction

With the implementation of educational reform in China, a lot of progress has been made in educational field, for example, the introduction of various English teaching methods. Because of it, the English teaching has been improved greatly. The educational reform began so a lot of practice and thoughts have appeared. Facing the success and achievements of the educational reform, the English teaching has to improve greatly to achieve the great task of the reform.

A lot of discussions and thoughts in English teaching have had since the 1990s. In this period, the introduction of communicative approach has begun, so the meaningful ways of English teaching have also begun. A lot of teachers have begun to study the ways and methods of English teaching. The most significant influence is the implementation of the new English teaching materials in junior and senior middle school. The new teaching materials call for different and meaningful ways of teaching. The promotion courses have begun in every part of this country, so a lot of changes have happened in the classes of the middle schools.

Literature Review

The Teaching Theories and Principles

Behaviorism is a theory and a method that was emphasized some years ago, but this method has some negative effects and this method is paid less attention to. People thought that grammar was very important and they wasted a lot of time in this method. Constructivism thinks that language should be constructed according to the grammar (Leslie, 2002), but grammar teaching is not enough. Communicative approach is combined with many learning theories and practice, so it is very wonderful, useful, and successful. People think English teaching must be effective as well as interesting. The students must be given special attention with very high motivation, determination, curiosity, and great care. In this way, the students can be successful in language learning.

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Many people think the students should be given confidence, determination, etc., because these phenomena determine the students' performances and achievements. Behaviorism thinks that students should be reinforced by teachers' appraisal or criticisms (Watson, 2012). This theory is of course not very true and has bad effects, for example, too many criticisms make students progress worse. A good theory thinks that too many criticisms are harmful to students' health, as well as other aspects. Teachers' appraisals should be as many as possible and the appraisals are the ways to success (Qu, 2016). One of the aims of English teaching is to develop students' core competency, for example, language abilities, the cultural awareness, thinking abilities, and learning abilities, so a lot of hard work should be made (Zhao, 2023).

The open policy and the educational reform have introduced a lot of new teaching principles and theories from other countries such as the USA, the Great Britain, etc. There are many theories in foreign language teaching. The communicative approach proves to be the most successful way of methods and task-based teaching method has also begun in mainland China since the 1990s.

The Teaching Methods

The grammar-translation method has been a traditional and typical way of English teaching in China since many years ago but the method proves to be failure in many schools in China. So, the communicative approach and other meaningful, excellent and successful ways of English teaching have appeared since the educational reform in this country. The reform calls for the transition from exam-oriented education to the quality education. A lot of discussions and researches have been made because of the reform.

The experts call for the usage of the student-centred method in the English classes. The students tend to be more talkative, concerned, active in the English classes and a lot of discussions have begun in the classes, so the English classes begin to be more meaningful and more active. The authentic methods and situational teaching methods have also started in the English classes. The class discussions begin with the implementation of presetting and generation teaching method. The project-based method has also begun. In all, the teaching classes have improved greatly and students' learning results of English are better with better participation of the students. The English teaching methods have influenced the teaching of other subjects. The educational reform has been successful because of the success of English teaching.

There are many methods for English teaching these years, one of which is called stratified teaching. The stratified teaching classifies the students into different classes according to their English levels and abilities in order to suit the needs of different students (Zhang, 2023).

The English Teaching Materials

The new English teaching materials have also been an important element for the success of English teaching. Many English teaching materials have been introduced and implemented. The situational teaching methods are the main method of teaching; a lot of dialogues and class discussions have appeared in the new English books. The colorful pictures make the situations more vivid and the students are attracted by the teaching materials. So, the reform of English teaching materials is also the beginning and one of the reasons of success.

Methodology

The survey was designed as followed:

1. What kind of English teachers do you like?
2. Do you have difficulties in your English learning?

3. Is your English learning successful? Why do you think so?

Below are the results of the survey:



Figure 1. The English teachers you like.

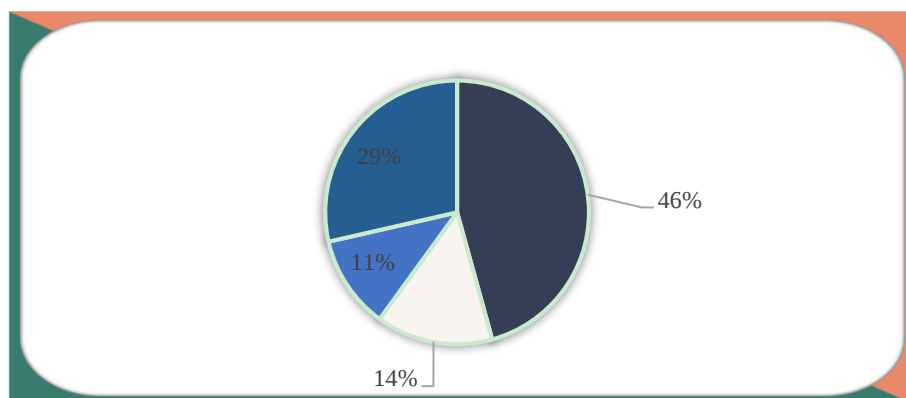


Figure 2. Difficulties in English learning.

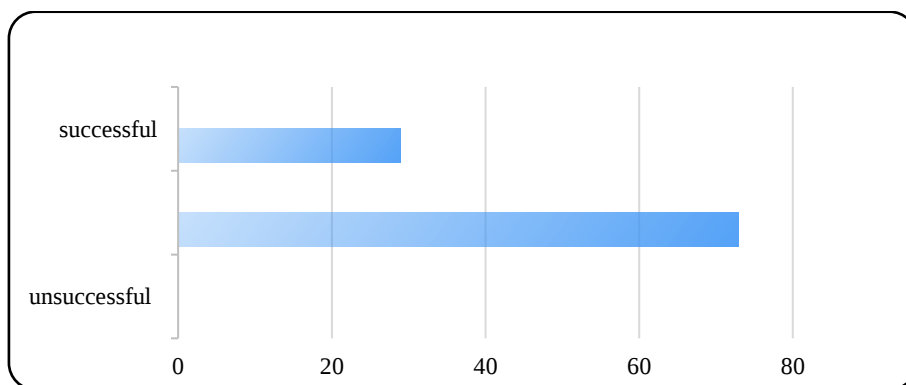


Figure 3. Successful or not.

What are the revelations:

For the first question, why do the results occur?

It is believed that the three English teachers who are all beautiful ladies are approved by the students after one-year-long teaching. Students think that the responsible teachers are important and can help the students with their English learning. Some students like humorous teachers because the students are still young and learning sometimes may be difficult. Students prefer teachers to have less homework, because students are usually busy

and they need proper rests.

For the second question, we can make a conclusion that vocabulary is the most difficult thing in English learning and students need help and guidance from the teachers. Why do students think grammar is very difficult? We think maybe the teachers give too much grammar teaching, so it makes the students very difficult to grasp the grammar and the teachers' grammar teaching needs improving.

For the last question, students think that they are still not successful in English learning, because all the students surveyed are the poorest students in this Grade 1. A lot of things should be done to improve English for the students.

Discussion

Many people think that the critical time period is a very important factor for the development of students, so the foreign languages teaching should be as early as possible. People also think the input-output theory is an important method in language learning. Teachers ask their students to perform quickly or immediately in order to get quick output. The two theories have changed the ways and the teaching methods of English in China greatly.

The teachers should improve their teaching methods also in order to have successful students' behaviors and good results. The teachers should be hard-working with high motivation in teaching and they should have life-long learning methods for themselves. The society is developing very quickly; in this way teachers should learn each day by themselves or with the help of others. Continuous study is a good way and a method for teachers' self-development.

Since the successful methods of English teaching, the results of the Chinese students have been better and better than before. But there still exist some problems or failure in the English teaching. The introduction and implementation of new teaching methods have been wonderful and been the reasons of the success. What are the problems? I think the teachers are the problems of the English teaching in China nowadays.

What cause the failure? The teachers' English levels are still very poor. This situation is very serious in nowadays China. If the teachers' English level is poor, the teachers' teaching methods will also be poor and sometimes very ineffective. The teachers' English levels determine the students' examination scores, the success of English learning, etc. Therefore, we should improve the teachers' English levels greatly as quickly as possible.

Some English teachers are not qualified and suitable for English teaching. Their English is poor and does not reach such a high level for teaching high school students. Although a lot of old English teachers have retired and come back home, some under-qualified middle-aged English teachers have still stood on the platform of the English classes. They have poor English pronunciation, poor vocabulary, too slow speed of oral English, etc. The failure teachers intend to employ unsuccessful or failure teaching methods, such as the grammar blooming method. The failure teachers spend a lot of time in classes on the grammar presentation, while the practice of grammar is too limited. In this way, the students cannot grasp the grammar quickly and excellently. The teachers spend a lot of time in grammar, but the students' grammar is still bad and poor. With much time in grammar presentation, the time for reading, speaking, and writing has been limited. Why do the young teachers prefer to use this bad method? Maybe the teachers do not have a solid foundation of English, and they have not mastered the successful teaching principles, teaching theories, and teaching methods.

Some under-qualified English teachers intend to have bad moral standards. They are afraid of teaching students well because they think they will be surpassed by students and will have no jobs as an English teacher.

The poor moral standard makes the teachers failure and unsuccessful.

Some students' talents for learning English are worse than some successful ones. Because the teachers pay little attention to the less talented students, the students tend to fail in English learning. Some boy students have good scores in mathematics, while their English is really poor. So, the critical period for learning English should be stressed.

Everyone is unique and special, so some students may have less talent in learning English. What should we do in coping with this phenomenon? The teachers should care for the students and pay attention to their interest and abilities in English learning. If there is enough care and attention, their results for English learning will be better.

In mainland China, the students study many subjects, so they have only limited time in learning English. So, the good teaching methods are required and enough or abundant time for English learning is the answer for the success of English learning.

Students will learn from teachers, so the teachers' teaching methods should be correct and successful. The false methods will waste students' time and be harmful to their thinking. The teachers can learn from each other and listen to other's successful classes in this way to improve their own English teaching methods.

Why do some English teachers always focus on the grammar structure instead of meaning? This kind of teachers is improper or not qualified because their English level is limited and their teaching methods are very poor. We can ask better teachers to substitute for them if they cannot be improved to the required standard.

On the teaching methods, fossilization is the major problem for some teachers. The authors think correction must be made in time in order to remove or reduce this phenomenon. Examples and samples should be enough in order to meet the requirements of self-correction which always works. Practice makes perfect, so we must train the students to be in the state of automatic levels before going to the college entrance examinations of China which are held each year.

Conclusions

Quality Education

Quality education is an important educational policy in China these years. The policy thinks that people's moral level is a very essential factor and the moral level is a must. Why do people propose this method? Because without this kind of educational principle and method, people tend to commit crimes. We had such kind of example in the past that some students' examination scores were good but they still committed crimes. This case astonished many people and scholars who cared the harmful effects of these crimes. At the same time, people also found the importance of moral education. Every person needs quality education which means the whole development of moral, intellectual, physical, arts, and labor education. The five kinds of educational factors provide a thorough and a complete solution to everyone in nowadays China. Therefore, the teachers should focus on the five kinds of methods and principles.

What does quality mean? It means people's moral quality, and also indicates that the functions of examinations are limited. The examination just only plays an important part in education, but the students' moral states are more important. The examination is just a method to evaluate the teaching and learning. The examination method is just a principle and a procedure of the whole education. This principle and procedure cannot be omitted. Examination system is a must in Chinese society, because people in China consider the equality of people is important. The equal education needs the examination system.

Quality education is a successful method and principle which has been tested and implemented in China for many years. From kindergarten to university level, quality education plays an important part and has tremendous importance. We think that people should be educated fully and thoroughly and the students should be cultivated with their talents and abilities. Educational principles and theories must develop and progress side by side with the development of society. Everyone should be educated and quality education is surely successful. Principles and methods should be provided with correct theories. Teaching methods and principles should be correct, or they will ruin the success of education. Theories must be combined with the practice and the educational theories must be put into practice.

The Development of English Teachers

We think that if the teachers' performances are good, they need the special things as following: the teachers' moral standards, the teachers' English levels, the life-long learning, the continuous study, and the big environment of the society.

In nowadays China, teachers' wholly development is regarded as an important factor in the educational field. People should have life-long learning habits and methods to fulfill the requirements of fast development of society. We find many English teachers' English levels are still poor and their teaching methods are bad. We meet with the problem, that is, the teachers' English levels are poor. With many efforts, their teaching methods have been improved but their levels are still not good enough. Successful English teaching needs correct methods—teaching and learning methods. The successful English teaching also needs enough time to involve in the language teaching. The correct teaching methods should be implemented and useless ways should be discarded fully.

The teachers should be improved in order to meet the requirements of quality education. The development of English teachers need proper methods. The English teachers should be sent to have continuous study or learning. They should be improved in English levels and also the teaching methods. Communicative approach is the answer for language teaching these years. Many other teaching methods and principles should be correctly paid attention to. The other important way of development is the self-study of teachers themselves. Everyone should have this method in mind, that is, the life-long learning. The students should be cultivated with this method and the teachers should be life-long learners. The society develops very fast, so the teaching methods should be improved.

The teachers should have good learning habits and learning methods, because they should influence their students' learning behaviors. Everyone must study, so the society needs equal development and competition which exist in the society also. Competition is a good thing for social development. Decades ago, competition was fully pushed by the government in this way to make the Chinese society develop fast. These years, we also have other methods of management, but competition is still a good way for the development of society. With competition, we can progress fast.

The Young Teachers Should Develop as Quickly as Possible

The teaching has some characteristics, for example, teaching calls for rich experience to make students develop quickly. The young teachers should collect experience as much as possible and as quickly as possible. Although the old teachers' educational background is not enough, their many years of teaching experiences make them suitable to their teaching positions. The old teachers have taught for many years and their teaching practices have improved day by day. If the young teachers cannot be as good as the good teachers, the young teachers will be failure.

How can the young teachers develop quickly? We think that the teachers' colleges or universities should teach the theories as well as practice in order to make the young teachers as qualified teachers. The young teachers themselves should be self-improved to meet with the requirements. They can learn from others or other teachers, do researches, and prepare the lessons with their knowledge. The society should provide the students with guidance as much as possible.

The Students' Senses of Achievements and Confidence Building Are Necessary and Important

Students should be the focuses and the centers of education. The student-centred principle is correct and good. This method thinks that students should be kindly treated and should be fully developed. People think everyone can be educated and should be educated to meet the requirements of the fully-developed society. Teaching should not be harmful to students' curiosity, interest, confidence, etc. Teaching should arouse students' everything. Teachers should never criticize too much because sometimes the criticisms are not necessary. We think that the students should be protected fully and completely in order to have good development.

Teachers are the engineers, gardeners of students, and teachers should give students love as much as possible. The teachers' love is thought to be a good way in schools and this way is proved to be successful. The teachers should provide knowledge as well as many other things.

The author thinks that the teachers' care and knowledge are equally important. We should not only give or pass the knowledge. Teachers should be the friends and teachers of students. In China's multilevel big classes system, the teachers should face all the students equally to cultivate the students' natural talents. The big classes system calls for the teachers' love, knowledge, and talents. To be educators, you should make some contributions to the society also.

Teachers should have good command of knowledge as well as good teaching methods. Teachers should not be harmful to students, but instead should help, arouse, and cultivate the students. Teachers should give as many chances as possible to students' performances. We think that the teachers can be successful if the students' confidence, etc., are paid fully attention to.

How to Solve the Problems of Under-Qualified English Teachers?

We should improve all the English teachers' moral standards and also their English levels, English teaching methods, principles and theories. We will have teachers' ethics training for all the English teachers to make them qualified.

With fostering so many English teachers, we do not lack English teachers any more. We can have this policy that all the English teachers are required to take part in the rotation of the teachers, in this way to remove the fear of the bad teachers. When the teachers rest at home with no classes, they can still have salaries and other allowances.

The open classes are one of the main successes of English teaching and we still have this method later on to the future time. The research work of teachers is also required to make more excellent experts and English teachers. We call on all the teachers to participate in this educational reform in China and we hope a lot of progress will be made.

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