

How to Cultivate Students' Interest in Studying English

Yanjing Zhang

Hebei Province Xingtai No.31 Middle School, Xingtai 054110, China.

Abstract: In modern society, English, as an important language, is an indispensable tool for people to communicate and exchange. However, learning English is not limited to knowledge points, grammar and other aspects. With the development and progress of the times and the rapid improvement of the level of science and technology, the problem of how to cultivate students' interests has become increasingly prominent. Interest is the best teacher to learn, and it is also the most effective, direct and lasting way for students to learn English well and improve their level and ability. Cultivating good teaching habits can help us master knowledge and skills better. Starting from the importance of students' interest in learning, this paper discusses how to stimulate students' interest in learning and find the correct teaching methods in order to help students have a strong interest in English learning in class and help them acquire knowledge actively.

Keywords: English; Students; Interest in Learning; Tactics

Introduction

The thesis discusses the importance of interest and what I have done to cultivate students' learning interests. The following aspects are involved: The importance of interest in learning, let students make clear their main part in language learning and give them enough opportunities to demonstrate, how to help them keep the interest long, build up a more harmonious relationship between students and teachers.

Interest is the most active element in studying English and it is also the effective stimulant to study. Interest can push forward people to learn and act actively, and surely interest is a decisive factor, which influences one's motivation, attitude and perseverance^[1]. Einstein once said: Interest is the best teacher. Interesting things will never make people feel bored, but make them work hard and persevering until they succeed. Interest is people's source power of learning. So it is important in learning English. If students accept education in joy, they will want to learn instead of being asked to learn. They will release from boring knowledge teaching and mechanical reciting, the effects of learning will be much better. In this essay, how to cultivate the students' interest in studying English will be discussed.

1. The importance of interest in learning

Interest is the state of wanting to learn or know and it is also the power to hold one's concern or curiosity. According to the theory of intrinsic motivation, it is an innate impulse to show one's ability and self-confidence. And in the view of the theory of ego efficiency, it is derived from the feeling of satisfaction to achieve some showings, while in the theory of expectation value; it refers to the fascination of the tasks to be completed to the learner. We learn from all these definitions that interest plays an important role in learning^[2]. Confucius, the great educationalist of ancient China, once pointed out: "The man who knows it is not as good as the man who likes it; the man who likes it is not as good as the man who takes delight in it". Where the heart is willing, it will find a thousand ways, but where it is unwilling it will find a thousand excuses. The main task of a teacher is in every possible way leading the students into the most enjoyable stage. Interest is also a spirit in studying English. So the teacher should use all kinds of ways to arouse the students' interest in studying English.

2. Let students play the main part in English learning and arouse their learning interest

2.1 Let students make clear their main place

In the traditional English teaching, teachers play dominant roles in the teaching process. They do not care about their audiences' feelings. The students have to be compelled to get the knowledge from their teacher whether they are willing or not. so the teaching result isn't good enough and they can't learn by themselves. When they have problems, they don't know what to do. They can't solve the problems by themselves. So the roles should be changed. The teacher should be a guide but a leader, the students shouldn't not only be the audiences but also the participants in the teaching process. *Teachers should allow students to become masters of learning activities*^[3].

English can not be taught, it must be learned. We can't learn English well only with teachers' teaching. Students must cooperate with others under teachers' guide, try to understand, remember and get more knowledge. So, practice is the most important. Knowing their position, students will feel they are the owners of the study, and then produce study motive, it means they have had study interest. If interest in learning is aroused, the dominant position of students will be fully reflected, The study effect is also more obvious. This is a benign circulation.

2.2 Give them enough chances to speak and act

After students can speak some simple sentences, I teach them to do duty report. Students do it every day one by one. At the beginning, the report can be very easy, several sentences are OK. One month later, I let them do the harder report. All kinds of reports are included. For example, self-introduction, introducing others, retelling things, describing things, telling stories. In all, students use the simple expressions to complete the report. Then I will ask some questions according to the report. Students answer the questions actively. During the answering, I will seize the opportunity to encourage them timely. Surely, I will allow each student to speak. The second half of Grade Seven, students have a certain amount of language ability, I will let them to ask questions and others will answer them actively. In this way, the enthusiasm of the students will be mobilized, this class has a good start. Besides, in the teaching process, according to the content need, I offer the opportunities for them to act the conversations and the scene plays, play games, hold competitions and so on. This form of the class, not only activate classroom atmosphere and, more importantly, mobilize the enthusiasm of students to enable them to learn in high spirits among the input, rather than passively listen to boring lectures, teaching and learning effect can be imagined^[4].

3. How to keep their interests long

3.1 Encourage student in time, help them to get over the difficulties and help students to build up confidence

In the path of learning English, in addition to flowers and applause, there are going to be thorns and frustrations. Flowers and applause will encourage students to study harder and arouse the immense interest of students. Once they come across bumpiness, some students immediately cool the passion, the learning does not progress, it will decline. .At this time, I will have a talk with these students, tell them the road of acquiring knowledge is long and the learning process will encounter difficulties, we need to face up to them, strengthen our confidence and find ways to solve them, not to retreat. Where there is a will there is a way. It is true that every student is eager to make progress in his study. Once the progress has been made, even very limited, he will have the sense of achievements^[5]. As a result, he is full of interest, and makes still further progress. It is important for teachers to help students to keep such senses. At any time when a student fails in the examination, a teacher shouldn't criticize him hastily. The teacher should encourage the student to study diligently again and get good marks next time. When the student makes progress, the teacher should praise him in time to build up his confidence. Getting the praise from the teacher is a great joy and success to the students, especially to the bottom students. Joy coming from success is a sort of tremendous force. Without this kind of force, any measures are of no use, because failure will make the students produce pessimism, disappointment and crestfallen moods which will influence their interest in study. Therefore the teacher should use every possible way to help the students to build up confidence.

3.2 Learning contents should proceed step by step

The course content must suit student's actual level, should fit the majority students. If the course content has surpassed student's actual level, student's study interest will vanish gradually, the polarization can be getting more and more serious. The teaching material content is from the shallow to the deep, the student also wants to obtain the knowledge in an orderly way. Along with difficulty increase, needs the student to overcome difficulties by the strong will, the teacher must understand the students' study situation, helps them to be clear about the goal, firm confidence and make another progress.

3.3 Teach them correct learning methods in order to help them avoid taking circuitous road

Interest is very important. But you can't learn English well only with interest. The students must master the scientific study methods, had the strong study interest to learn English. In teaching, I have done so.

Explaining the word, I use body language and gestures. Such as in teaching these action words--run, write, think, read, go, come, leave, I use the actions to demonstrate. Students can guess the meaning, then remember the words easily. Actions are useful in teaching pronunciation. The teacher demonstrates how to make the sound by his movements of the speech organs, such as, mouth shapes, tongue movements and states of muscles, etc, and uses a hand to show the stressed syllable of a word or to beat the time while practicing rhyme, and uses a hand to gesture the fall and rise of the voices. The clever use of body language can play an effective role.

Sometimes, I use the songs to teach grammar. In some students' opinion, the grammar is very hard. Songs offer a change from routine classroom activities. They can be used to teach a variety of language items such as sentence patterns, vocabulary, pronunciation, rhythm, adjectives, and adverbs. Learning English through songs also provides a free atmosphere for the students.

Teaching methods should be diversified, can not be repeated. In the teaching process, I use all kinds of forms to arouse the students' enthusiasm. Such as making dialogues, role-play, story-telling, changing dialogue into description, changing description into dialogue, writing group words into a sentence, writing sentences into an article. In this way, they will have opportunity to work together, help each other and learn from each other.

Conclusion

In fact, English teaching on the basis of interest is the most efficient. Interest can make students acquire knowledge actively and cultivate their independence in studying English. Teachers should pay much attention to the interest in the process of teaching.

References

- [1] Sun XH. Junior high school English teaching students' interest in learning strategies [J]. Success: I, 2021(11):0145-0147.
- [2] Tang JQ. Strategies to improve junior high school English students' interest [J]. Literary Teenagers, 2021, 000(021):P.1-1.
- [3] Zhang J. Junior high school English teaching to stimulate students' interest in reading [J]. Middle school English, 2021(24):1.
- [4] Zhao CY. Strategies to stimulate junior high school students' interest in English learning [J]. Academic Weekly, 2022(8):2.
- [5] Zhang LH. Junior high school English teaching students interest in learning strategies [J]. Academic Weekly, 2022(22):16-18.

About the author: Zhang Yanjing 1979.8 Female Xingtai No.31 Middle School, a primary and secondary school teacher of Han University in Xingtai City, Hebei Province.

Research direction: English teaching.