

# Discussion on English Education and Teaching in Colleges and Universities from a Multicultural Perspective

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**Abstract:** The development of economic globalization makes the culture show a diversified development trend, and the traditional mode of teaching English in colleges and universities can hardly adapt to the development needs of the times. Therefore, there is an urgent need to reform and innovate the concept, teaching mode, teaching methods and content of English teaching in colleges and universities. In the process of teaching, there is a close connection between culture and English teaching. Exploring the reform of English teaching mode in colleges and universities under the perspective of multiculturalism can help to improve the quality of teaching and activate students' learning motivation. On this basis, this paper firstly analyzes the necessity of English teaching innovation in colleges and universities under the multicultural perspective. Secondly, it focuses on analyzing how to innovate the teaching mode of English education in colleges and universities under the perspective of multiculturalism.

**Keywords:** multiculturalism; college English; teaching innovation

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## Introduction

The advancement of economic globalization has made cultural exchanges between countries closer and closer, and multiculturalism has also brought a greater impact on education and teaching in China's colleges and universities, and various disciplines are gradually tending to diversified development. In China's university curriculum system, English is a basic course and also a language skill to enhance the cultural communication ability of college students. However, from the point of view of the current situation of English teaching in colleges and universities, it is still at a relatively low level of development, which makes it difficult for students to flexibly cope with the development trend of multiculturalism. Therefore, under the multicultural background, English teachers in colleges and universities must pay great attention to teaching innovation. By exploring a new and efficient teaching mode, students' intercultural communication level can be improved.

## 1. The Necessity of English Teaching Innovation in Colleges and Universities from a Multicultural Perspective

### 1.1 Cultivating Students' Cultural Awareness

English is a language subject with both humanistic and instrumental characteristics. In teaching English in colleges and universities, teachers must combine the students' individual needs and subject bases, build a real language environment for students, and make students understand the essence of English by presenting them with the local cultural background. By presenting the local cultural background to students, they can make students understand the essence of English. By building a western cultural background for students in English teaching, they can help students understand the charm of different languages and cultural characteristics, and improve their cross-cultural communication ability and cultural awareness.

### 1.2 Improve students' outlook

Under the perspective of multiculturalism, innovative English teaching in colleges and universities can help students improve their cultural thinking. As a major subject in the teaching system of colleges and universities, English belongs to the category of humanities. In the daily teaching process, it also involves history, literature, local customs and geography and other related contents. English teaching based on a multicultural perspective can not only broaden students' learning horizons and knowledge, but also cultivate students' cultural communication skills and cultural appreciation in the process of penetrating multidisciplinary content.

## **2. Innovative Path of English Teaching in Colleges and Universities under the Perspective of Multiculturalism**

### **2.1 Change the teaching concept and enrich the way of cultural transmission**

Innovative means of teaching English in colleges and universities under the perspective of multiculturalism can realize the cultivation of high-quality talents. Teachers must adhere to the innovative teaching concept, based on multicultural characteristics, and break the traditional single teaching mode. Teachers can combine the characteristics of English courses in multimodal contexts to present students with teaching resources such as pictures, videos, texts, and audios, so that students can mobilize their multi-senses to experience multiculturalism. At the same time, the use of multimodal discourse in the teaching process can also effectively improve students' language application ability and build a real English environment for students.

First, teachers should fully combine the concept of cultural education to build a cultural atmosphere in the classroom and cultivate students' multicultural understanding and cultural literacy. The design of each link in the process of classroom teaching must fully reflect the humanistic characteristics of the English language subject, and stimulate students' motivation to participate by creating an English cultural atmosphere of knowledge. For example, teachers can integrate exotic cultures in teaching, so that students can understand the cultural background of English from different perspectives, and enhance the efficiency of students' English learning under the drive of culture.

Secondly, from the perspective of cultural inheritance language is the main carrier, and cultural inheritance is also the main embodiment of the value of language transmission. English teaching in colleges and universities is not only to help students learn basic knowledge, but also to help students establish cultural awareness and form the concept of multiculturalism. The collision of Chinese and Western cultures can also help students think deeply about how different languages should be flexibly applied in different contexts, and promote students to independently summarize the personalized differences of each language in different cultural contexts.

### **2.2 Optimize the curriculum of colleges and universities and enrich the content of English teaching**

Under the perspective of multiculturalism, English teaching in colleges and universities should further optimize the curriculum and improve the teaching content. Multiculturalism is an opportunity for the development of English curriculum reform system in colleges and universities. Whether it is for English majors or general English courses, cultural awareness cultivation should be integrated into the teaching of listening, speaking, reading and writing [2]. Various colleges and universities should set up English literacy elective courses for all students, such as appreciation of English and American literature, comparison of Chinese and Western cultures, cross-cultural communication, etc., to enhance students' cultural comprehension and humanistic literacy, based on the actual teaching situation.

At the level of enriching teaching content, apart from textbook resources, a large number of English teaching resources can also be found in daily life, such as English songs, movie and television works, British and American literature, celebrity speeches, sports competitions and so on. These are also English learning resources that students are interested in and can be used by teachers for teaching. In the process of teaching, teachers should not only utilize diversified teaching resources to enrich the content of classroom teaching, but also guide students to reasonably screen and identify learning resources. Integrate the cultivation of students' intercultural communication skills and cultural awareness into the goals of English teaching.

Language and culture are inextricably linked, and the lack of cultural teaching will affect students' learning and cognition of English. Therefore, in the process of teaching, teachers should deeply explore the cultural materials in the teaching materials. For example, they can design learning tasks through direct explanation, situational dialogues and cooperative exploration to guide students to deeply experience English culture.

For example, teachers can incorporate the history and cultural background of English into English teaching. After that, students are guided to read the original English books, so that they can have a deeper understanding of the background of the development of British and American culture and strengthen their learning ability. So that students in the process of multicultural collision always firmly love the Chi-

nese traditional culture.

### **2.3 Innovative Curriculum Evaluation Mechanism and Sound English Teaching System in Colleges and Universities**

The goal of English teaching in the context of multiculturalism is to avoid students' blind pursuit of culture, to enhance students' ability to identify culture, and to selectively absorb Western culture. On the basis of helping students to form the ability of cultural communication and the awareness of cultural tolerance, students' cultural awareness is enhanced [3]. Therefore, in English teaching in colleges and universities, teachers should also innovate the evaluation mechanism of the curriculum, and improve students' cultural understanding ability by optimizing the evaluation indexes and evaluation modes. In the traditional evaluation of English in colleges and universities, it is usually based on the final examination results. However, under the multicultural perspective, teachers should integrate cultural evaluation indicators into the evaluation process. Through the combination of process evaluation and summative evaluation, help students establish the concept of cultural equality.

In the process evaluation, teachers should focus on judging students' cultural learning attitudes, judging whether students fully understand the characteristics of other regional cultures; whether they are able to take the initiative to explore and compare cultural differences. Through a reasonable course evaluation mechanism, students' cultural self-awareness is strengthened. Avoiding the phenomenon of students' errors of total refinement in the learning process, students' cultural discernment and cultural criticism ability is enhanced.

### **Conclusion**

The innovation of English teaching in colleges and universities under the perspective of multiculturalism should be based on the diversified teaching mode, and the teaching concept should be changed on the basis of enriching English teaching resources. Based on the multicultural background, cultivate students' cross-cultural communication ability and cultural awareness, and further improve students' English communication ability. Therefore, English teaching in colleges and universities should always permeate the concept of multiculturalism, strengthen the ideological leadership of students, cultivate students' cross-cultural communication skills, and realize the reform and innovation of English education and teaching in colleges and universities.

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