

Analysis on Strengthening Early Reading and Enhancing Vocational Abilities for Foreign Language Majors in Private Vocational Colleges

-- Taking the School of Humanities and Education at Guangzhou Nanyang Polytechnic College as an example

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Abstract: Improving the vocational abilities of foreign language majors is one of the important goals of vocational colleges, especially private vocational colleges, in carrying out education and teaching, and improving employment rates. It is also one of the goals of talent cultivation. However, for foreign language majors in private vocational colleges with relatively low starting points in foreign languages, the first classroom teaching cannot effectively meet their needs for improving their professional abilities. It is particularly important to establish a second classroom as an effective supplement and extension to the first classroom. This article takes the "Time Honored English Morning Reading" activity carried out by the School of Humanities and Education of Guangzhou Nanyang Technological Vocational College, which is a private vocational college, as an example to explore the feasibility of this innovative vocational ability training model.

Keywords: Early Study of Foreign Language Majors in Vocational Colleges; Students' Vocational Abilities; A Second Classroom; "Time Honored English Morning Reading" Activity.

1. Preface

Higher vocational education occupies an important position in China's education system. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese government has issued a series of policy documents aimed at promoting the development of vocational education, especially higher vocational education. The level of professional ability directly affects the quality of employment and personal development path. For students majoring in foreign languages in vocational colleges, due to the particularity of their major and the requirements for their future careers, they need to possess professional abilities that are different from other majors, especially language communication skills. Students who dare to communicate in English and are good at it not only help them achieve success in their future careers, but also enhance their personal qualities and comprehensive abilities.

What is foreign language vocational ability? Foreign language vocational competence refers to the abilities required to engage in various professional activities in the field of foreign languages. It includes language proficiency, cross-cultural communication skills, translation skills, language knowledge application skills, etc. For graduates majoring in foreign languages, they need to possess the following abilities: 1. Language proficiency: including abilities in listening, speaking, reading, writing, translation, etc., able to understand and use foreign languages for communication and expression. 2. Cross cultural communication skills: Understand language habits, values, and ways of thinking in different cultural backgrounds, and be able to engage in cross-cultural communication and exchange. 3. Translation ability: able to accurately and fluently translate one language into another, including both interpretation and translation. 4. Language knowledge

application ability: able to apply the language knowledge learned to practical work, such as business negotiations, international summit translation, etc. It can be seen that the four major professional abilities in foreign languages all rely on language communication skills.

How to improve foreign language communication skills? Increasing vocabulary, learning grammar, cultivating confidence, and continuous learning are the four key points, and morning reading can connect the four key points. Persisting in morning reading can not only increase vocabulary and accumulate grammar knowledge points, but also cultivate confidence in speaking and expression, and is also a direct manifestation of continuous learning.

2. Analysis of the Current Situation of Early Reading for Foreign Language Majors in the School of Humanities and Education at Our University

As students of private vocational colleges, especially those majoring in foreign languages, they face many challenges. Firstly, their scores upon entering the school are generally lower than those of students in public vocational colleges, which reflects their relatively weak learning foundation in secondary school. In order to cope with the pressure of further education, schools often only focus on "writing" in the first class and neglect "reading", resulting in students lacking long-term training in "reading". The main purpose of students learning English is to prepare for the college entrance examination, rather than to truly cultivate their own interests. After entering university, as the courses deepen, students' English proficiency varies greatly. Some students with poor foundations may feel unable to keep up with the pace, develop a disinterest in learning, and even lack ambition. They cannot see their own prospects and feel lost and helpless.

Therefore, we need to actively explore relevant measures to help students build confidence, enhance professional abilities, and cultivate professional awareness. By establishing clear early reading plans and goals, diverse early reading activities, establishing study groups, regular evaluations and feedback, inviting industry experts to give lectures, strengthening practical teaching, and personalized teaching methods, students' interest and participation in learning can be enhanced, while also improving their language application ability and professional ethics.

Establish a clear early reading plan and objectives: Early reading should have a clear goal and plan, such as improving students' oral, reading, writing, or listening skills. Determine the time and content of morning reading, such as reading English articles, listening exercises, speaking exercises, etc. Make students understand the importance and purpose of early reading, in order to enhance their enthusiasm and participation.

Diversified early reading activities: In addition to traditional reading and memorization, various early reading activities can also be carried out, such as listening to English news, watching English movies, imitating English speeches, etc. These activities can enhance students' interest and participation, as well as improve their language skills and professional ethics.

Establish study groups: Students can be divided into groups, each with a leader responsible for organizing and supervising the group's learning activities. Group members can communicate and help each other to improve together.

Regular evaluation and feedback: Regularly evaluate students' learning outcomes, such as through oral exams, writing exercises, or listening tests. At the same time, timely feedback and suggestions should be given to students to help them improve and enhance.

Invite industry experts to give lectures: Experts or practitioners in the foreign language industry can be invited to give lectures at the school, allowing students to understand the current situation and development trends of the industry, and improve their professional awareness and quality.

Strengthen practical teaching: Through practical teaching, such as organizing foreign language corners, foreign language expansion activities, or foreign language professional competitions, students' language application ability and professional ethics can be improved. At the same time, it can also enhance their confidence and interest.

Personalized teaching: Each student's learning situation and needs are different, so personalized teaching plans and programs are needed. Personalized teaching plans and programs can be developed based on students' actual situations and learning needs to improve their learning outcomes and professional abilities.

3. The Practice and Exploration of the "Time Honoring English Morning Reading" Early Reading Activity

At present, more and more educators in private vocational colleges have realized that English morning reading for first-year students majoring in foreign languages is an essential extension and supplement to the classroom, an important battlefield for students' English learning, and a key link in improving students' English learning ability, English proficiency, and vocational skills. The School of Foreign Languages at Guangzhou Nanyang Technological Vocational

College, in accordance with the school's requirements for talent cultivation of "one good and three high", the top-level design of the "four integrations" path, and the "five in one" ideological and political work model, closely focuses on the school's work ideas of "grasping implementation, strengthening foundation, deep integration, and cultivating characteristics", with the goal of cultivating innovative and entrepreneurial high-quality foreign language talents that can adapt to economic and social development. Starting from September 2018, it has launched the "Time Honors, English Morning Reading" program for first-year students. Innovative educational forms have stimulated students' enthusiasm for learning, providing them with a platform to cultivate language sense, deepen impressions, improve understanding, generate confidence, and experience success. It cultivates students' good study habits of loving and knowing how to read, greatly enhancing their professional skills and job competitiveness; At the same time, it promotes the construction of academic atmosphere in both classes and colleges, and serves as a demonstration for the school's academic atmosphere and class atmosphere (three winds construction).

In order to better carry out early reading activities, we conducted a survey on college

Through questionnaires, online surveys, online surveys and self-help surveys, 369 foreign language majors were investigated on their cognition of early reading. The data showed that only 0.5% of the students had the habit of staying up all night and staying up all night. More than 89.5% of the students read English or other books in the morning. More than 60.6% of the students thought that their oral English level was average and they could not communicate with foreigners normally. 90.4% of the students thought that the state and efficiency of early reading were the best. 98.6% of the students were willing to participate in early reading. 98.88% of the students thought that the biggest benefits of early reading were to exercise perseverance and cultivate the habit of getting up early.

Through our understanding of students' true thoughts, we also recognize the necessity and importance of carrying out this activity. By carrying out this activity, students' enthusiasm for learning can be stimulated, and a good academic atmosphere can be further created, creating a good English learning atmosphere in the college and even the school, and promoting the construction of a good academic atmosphere.

3.1. Help Freshmen Establish a Correct Attitude Towards English Morning Reading

To encourage students to have a positive attitude towards morning reading and to have a correct understanding of the importance of morning reading. First, they need to have a thorough understanding of the importance and necessity of morning reading. Only by making them recognize morning reading from within can the effectiveness of morning reading be fully realized. Morning is the best time of the day for a person's energy, and the memory effect is best at this time. Conducting English morning reading at this time can achieve twice the result with half the effort. If there is a regular class in the first morning, students can also attend class with full energy, which can be said to be a win-win situation. To this end, the off campus Chinese Language College took advantage of the good opportunity of the first themed class

meeting for freshmen, and the counselor personally carried out the ideological mobilization of the "Don't waste time, English morning reading" morning reading activity, allowing every student to deeply understand the importance of carrying

out the "Don't waste time, English morning reading" morning reading activity and the benefits of improving the effectiveness of their own students.

Table 1. Students' awareness of first-year English early reading

Q1: Do you have a habit of staying up all night and staying up late? (Multiple Choice)
A. No, there isn't B. Yes, there is C. Occasionally
Q2: How to arrange morning reading time? (Multiple Choice)
A. Reading and memorizing English B. Read extracurricular books C. Preview and review professional courses D. Other
Q3: How is your English speaking level? (Multiple Choice)
A. Able to communicate smoothly with foreigners B. Able to communicate with Chinese in English C. Basic communication with foreigners
Q4: Regarding your cooperation with mandatory reading? (Multiple Choice)
A. Actively cooperate B. Occasionally cooperate C. The class monitor reminds us to cooperate D. Never cooperate
Q5: How are your regular English exam scores? (Multiple Choice)
A. Either the first or the top three! B. Medium to low C. Medium or above average
Q6: How is the state and efficiency during morning reading? (Multiple Choice)
A. Full energy effect stands out from the crowd B. Slightly weak but still able to learn normally C. As efficient as regular classes
Q7: How many people are willing to participate in morning reading? (Multiple Choice)
A. Very willing B. More willing C. Generally D. Not willing
Q8: How long do you think is appropriate for morning reading? (Multiple Choice)
A. 45 minutes B. One hour C. 30 minutes D. 20 minutes
Q9: Will the sound of classmates affect learning efficiency during morning reading? (Multiple Choice)
A. Will B. I won't
Q10: After a period of morning reading, where do you think your English has improved faster? (Multiple Choice)
A. Listening skills B. Writing C. Reading D. Oral English E. Other
Q11: Do you think the biggest benefit of early reading is? (Multiple Choice)
A. Exercise perseverance B. Cultivate the habit of waking up early C. Achieve optimal memory effect D. Read aloud to improve language sense E. Other

3.2. Innovative Morning Reading Methods

Previously, conducting English morning reading in a monotonous manner resulted in low efficiency. However, the innovative morning reading activity carried out by the School of Humanities and Education involves teachers, students, and party members accompanying the class. Students read English aloud for at least half an hour every morning from 7:50 to 8:20 in the outdoor square (or indoors when it's cold or rainy). Simultaneously innovating the morning reading method, adopting a combination of online and offline approaches. One is at the class level: before offline morning reading, each class study committee member should write the morning reading content one day in advance; Secondly, establish a morning reading attendance system, with attendance conducted by the class disciplinary committee and strict attendance regulations; If the class leader takes the lead in signing in during the morning reading online and writes "A student is reading in the morning" in the group, the morning reading audio and video can be sent. Secondly, at the level of teacher party members: during the offline morning reading process, the school arranges for teacher party members (class teachers) to take turns on duty, establishes a responsibility system, requires teachers to be on duty seriously and provide guidance and answer questions, carefully inspects the morning reading situation of each class, and communicates with the class cadres based on the specific situation of each class, proposes rectification suggestions, and helps each class improve the effectiveness of English morning reading. Teacher duty is the main task for Party members to contact the class; The online morning reading time is provided with learning materials pushed by teachers to guide students in learning and take good notes. Innovatively cultivating students' conscious learning ability through various methods.

3.3. Set Expected Goals for English Morning Reading

To carry out morning reading activities among first grade students, it is necessary to have clear goals. The School of Humanities and Education at the university clearly stated during the morning reading activity that the goal of English morning reading is to promote the academic atmosphere of the class and the college through this activity; At the same time, combining the characteristics of the college and majors, make new explorations in the concept and methods of educating people; Spread from our school to all students in terms of coverage, playing a demonstrative role in the construction of the school's three winds. The specific expected goals for English morning reading mainly include:

Guide students to actively participate in English morning reading, create a good English learning atmosphere, and cultivate the good habit of diligent morning reading, making English morning reading a norm.

Guide students to take the CET-4 and CET-6 exams and participate in professional skills competitions to enhance their vocational abilities and employment competitiveness;

Guide students to participate in social volunteer service activities and enhance their vocational practice abilities.

Promote the construction of class and academic atmosphere, and play a demonstrative role in the construction of school and academic atmosphere, as well as class atmosphere (three types of atmosphere construction); To

achieve the goal of "high comprehensive quality" in the "one good and three high" construction, and to help students grow and succeed.

3.4. Establish a Sound Activity System and A Scientific Morning Reading Assessment and Evaluation System

To maintain long-term effectiveness of any activity, it is necessary to establish and improve relevant systems and assessment systems, and morning reading is no exception. It is not a problem to engage in morning reading activities every day, but it is not enough to persist for a long time and achieve results. To this end, the off campus Chinese Language College has established a sound activity system and a scientific morning reading assessment and evaluation system from the following aspects

Do a good job in top-level design to provide guarantee for the morning reading activity of "not wasting time, English morning reading"

In order to promote the orderly development of this activity, the School of Humanities and Education has established a working group for the promotion of the "Don't waste time, English morning reading" morning reading activity, with the Dean as the group leader, the Vice Dean as the deputy group leader, and party members, class teachers, professional teachers, and class cadres as members, to clarify the division of labor; The Party member, class teacher, and counselor shall develop an implementation plan for their class to ensure the effective implementation of the "Don't waste time, English morning reading" morning reading activity; Establish a professional teacher morning reading duty inspection system, regularly inspect students' morning reading situation, help students develop good study habits, and professional teachers participate in morning reading to timely answer questions and clarify doubts for students, improve students' learning efficiency, and ensure the quality of morning reading learning; The Party Branch and the General Youth League Branch made full use of bulletin boards, banners, websites, official account, WeChat and other media to widely publicize and actively conduct publicity and education.

3.5. Emphasize the Diversification of Evaluation Subjects

Encourage students to objectively and fairly evaluate their English morning reading situation, identify shortcomings, and organize peer evaluations between classmates or groups. By diversifying the evaluation subjects, students can fully participate in the evaluation, further respecting their subject status, enhancing their learning confidence, and promoting communication and cooperation among students. At the same time, we will promote the normalization of English morning reading both online and offline, regularly commend classes and individuals who perform well in English morning reading, select outstanding classes for morning reading every month, and reward them at the end of the semester. Every week, outstanding individuals in morning reading (morning reading stars with 100% attendance rate) are selected and commended at the flag raising ceremony. These morning readers share their morning reading experiences, and the students' morning reading situation is included in the final comprehensive evaluation to motivate them to actively participate in creating a good academic atmosphere.

Promote learning through competitions, consolidate the effectiveness of morning reading, enhance students' professional skills and employment competitiveness

In order to consolidate the effectiveness of students' morning reading, every semester we organize students to participate in extracurricular activities closely related to their majors, such as English talk show competitions, English singing competitions, dubbing competitions, etc. organized by the school; Organize students to register for the first MoTalk English Morning Reading Competition for vocational colleges in Guangdong Province, which is being held throughout the province. Actively participate in AB level certification, 4 and 6 level certification, promote learning through competitions, consolidate morning reading effects, and enhance students' professional skills and employment competitiveness. 12 students were awarded the Talent Award in the first MoTalk English Morning Reading Competition for vocational colleges in Guangdong Province; An English teacher has won the second prize of the Guidance Teacher Award in the English Speaking (English Major Group) category (Vocational Group) of the 2018-2019 Guangdong Vocational College Skills Competition; Two teachers were awarded the third prize in the English major group of the Guangdong Province semi-finals of the 10th Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press Cup National Higher Vocational College English Writing Competition as guidance teachers; A student won the second prize in the English speaking competition of Guangdong Vocational College Skills Competition.

4. Enhancing the Vocational Skills and Professional Analysis of Foreign Language Majors in Morning Reading

Early reading is crucial for students' English learning, especially for improving their listening and speaking abilities. It is like a fertile soil that nourishes students' language abilities and enables them to thrive. During morning reading time, students read aloud with accurate pronunciation and beautiful intonation, which undoubtedly plays a huge role in improving their oral skills. Teachers play a crucial role in guiding and correcting students in this process. By observing their pronunciation and intonation, they promptly identify and correct problems, ensuring that students move forward on the right path. Early reading activities not only help improve students' language abilities, but also enhance interaction between teachers and students. During this process, the teacher-student relationship became closer and the emotional bond between teachers and students was strengthened. This good teacher-student relationship in turn promotes students' learning motivation, making them more passionate about learning English. In addition, morning reading activities also help cultivate students' good study habits and methods. During morning reading time, students gradually develop their own learning methods and habits through repeated reading and practice. This will be extremely beneficial for their future learning and life.

Overall, morning reading activities are a very valuable learning time. They not only improve students' English listening and speaking abilities, but also enhance interaction between teachers and students, cultivate students' learning methods and habits. Therefore, we should make full use of morning reading time to allow students to learn English in a

relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere, and enjoy the fun that English brings.

Improving the competitiveness of English major students is one of the important tasks in the current education field. With the continuous development and progress of society, the requirements for the comprehensive quality and various abilities of graduates are also increasing. Therefore, in addition to mastering professional knowledge, it is also necessary to pay attention to the cultivation and improvement of various abilities. Early reading activities are a very effective way of learning, which can improve the professional knowledge and language expression ability of English majors. Through long-term morning reading activities, students can gradually cultivate good habits such as punctuality and concentration, while also improving their competitiveness. In addition, morning reading activities can also create a good academic and class atmosphere, stimulate students' enthusiasm and initiative for learning, and enhance the learning competitiveness of foreign language majors in our school.

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