The Use of Schema Theory in the Teaching of Reading Comprehension

Jing Yang *

School of Foreign languages, West China Normal University, Sichuan, 637009, China
* Corresponding author Email: 1468395497@qq.com

Abstract: Reading comprehension teaching is an important part of junior and senior high school English, which is closely related to the cultivation of students' English core literacy. Schema theory is a professional theory used to explain the reading process, which can expand the breadth and depth of English Reading Teaching in junior and senior high schools. Schema theory points out that the reading process is the process of readers' cognition, processing and processing of reading materials, rather than simple information transmission and interaction. It has certain requirements for readers' mastery of language knowledge and reading skills. Therefore, in the teaching of English reading in junior and senior high schools, teachers should strengthen students' language knowledge, cultivate students' reading skills, improve reading effectiveness and achieve ideal reading results based on schema theory.

Keywords: Schema Reading; Junior and Senior High School English Teaching.

1. Introduction

In the process of English Reading Teaching in junior and senior high schools, the development of students' thinking through schema theory can enable students to think about more English problems in the process of English learning. With the help of schema theory, students can learn more language knowledge, learn more language skills and achieve diversified development.

2. Schema Theory

Schema theory mainly refers to introducing abstract knowledge directly into students' minds and connecting people's perceived images and cognition in the form of graphics. Modern schema theory is mainly aimed at the reproduction of the new knowledge structure constructed by individuals from their previous life experience. It is also an important way to connect external information and self-knowledge. Schema theory is closely related to everyone's life. The application of Schema Theory in English reading teaching has significant advantages.

Schema theory is widely used in English teaching. When reading all kinds of information, students will imperceptibly connect this information with the knowledge of their own life experience, which will help students further understand the content related to reading information. Generally speaking, schema theory mainly includes three types: formal schema, content schema and language schema. The unique structural features of formal schema through different contents include the characteristics of different elements such as characters, environment and stories, which makes it easier for readers to understand the core ideas in the materials. The content schema mainly expounds the theme, understands the content of the article, and has a comprehensive understanding of this article according to the cultural background and relevant knowledge provided; Language schemata involve language knowledge of pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. Only after mastering language knowledge can we further use language schema.

3. Application Advantages of Schema Theory in English Reading Teaching

Schema theory has been popular in recent years and has been applied in different disciplines. The application of Schema Theory in English reading teaching has obvious advantages.

3.1. Exercise Students' Logical Thinking

At present, English learning is highly valued, and many parents have higher requirements and expectations for students. Under this background, English reading teaching should focus on the comprehensive development of students, in which the development of logical thinking is a very important aspect of the all-round development of morality, intelligence and physique. In the teaching of English, there is more preference for language learning and less training for students' logical thinking.[1] At this time, applying schema theory to classroom design can enable students to sort out more English knowledge and build their own English learning system. Schema theory can also combine students' left brain and right brain, master more learning skills and methods in the process of English learning, and help students build the knowledge network of the whole textbook through reasonable reading methods during English reading, which is conducive to the exercise of students' logical thinking.

3.2. Promote the Structuring of English Knowledge

Designing English reading teaching through schema theory can enable students to take schema theory as the starting point. In the actual operation process, they can learn more English related knowledge in different forms such as tables, outlines, knowledge structure, mind map and so on.[2] The uniqueness of schema theory is that schema theory takes a knowledge point as the core to carry out relevant reading exercises.

This reading teaching design mode not only stays in the mastery of knowledge points, but also further promotes students' learning and review, which can enable students to
master more learning skills and stronger thinking ability while learning English as a language discipline. In terms of the current educational development, schema theory is integrated into the teaching design of English reading in many middle schools, which can enrich the form of English reading teaching, enable more students to review and practice pertinently in the process of reading learning, and improve students' rapid memory ability and the construction ability of knowledge network.

3.3. Meet the Needs of Core Literacy Education

After the concept of core literacy education is put forward, all disciplines should design classroom teaching from different angles in order to cultivate talents with all-round development. The adoption of schema theory as an English reading teaching model is of great significance to the comprehensive development of students. [3] Schema theory can help students reduce their daily learning burden and spend more time summarizing the relevant experience of English learning.

On this basis, students can develop in many aspects and achieve comprehensive development. [4] The use of schema theory can not only promote each student's autonomous learning, but also maximize the activity of students' brain thinking, maintain the uniqueness of personality development and better meet the relevant requirements of personalized learning. The teaching design of English reading under schema theory can help students and teachers establish a good cooperative communication relationship, effectively improve the quality of English learning, and effectively cultivate students' learning interest and thinking ability. This is not only a practice and exploration in English reading teaching, but also an innovation.

4. The Implementation of Schema Theory in English Reading Teaching in Junior and Senior High Schools

4.1. Focus on Guiding Students to Analyze English Reading Discourse Structure

Schema theory plays a key role in English reading comprehension. English reading accounts for a high proportion in English learning, and teachers need to think and design reasonably from the perspective of schema theory when teaching reading, so that students can form a good sense of language in their spare time, and maintain good reading habits, so that students can grasp the author's thoughts and emotions as a whole when completing English reading homework, and can understand more difficult sentences through sentence pattern analysis.

Using schema theory to understand the structure of an article can make the structure and level of the article clearer, and can summarize the content of the article as a whole. In daily teaching, teachers can also use schema theory to show the internal frame structure of the article on the blackboard, so that they can have a clear understanding when analyzing the text structure. The current English reading teaching design is student-centered. We should know which students have shortcomings in the process of English learning, which part of the reading teaching design can make students make progress. The reason why some students have low enthusiasm in learning English is that they don't like reading very much.

Through the way of schema theory, they can combine pictures and texts, so that students can understand more discourse structures and divergent thinking. This is a very good optimization design concept.

4.2. Develop Learning Thinking and Transform Complex Information into Schema

As a language subject, English needs to cultivate students' unique learning ability when learning English. Learning ability is also a very important core quality in the process of English reading. In teaching, teachers should pay attention to students' learning effect and students' mastery of basic knowledge. For example, the mastery of English vocabulary determines the level of English reading ability to a great extent. In the actual teaching process, teachers should know how to improve students' learning and thinking ability. On this basis, they should strengthen the cultivation of students' learning methods and learning ability, and further improve students' subject literacy, so as to improve students' overall English reading ability.

For example, teachers read some complex English articles, including some abstract theoretical concepts. They can show these articles in the way of schema, divide the articles, and turn the abstract content into graphics, which is easier for students to understand. Teachers can recommend more English novels to students and cultivate students' reading ability by reading novels. Teachers can also read, explain and analyze relevant articles in textbooks, so that students can master certain English learning methods in class and use their spare time to read more English novels. After student’s master learning methods in class, they can further consolidate their learning knowledge.

4.3. Increase the Introduction of Cultural Knowledge and Enrich the Significance of Schema Teaching

In the process of English reading teaching, a lot of English language and cultural knowledge is involved. In order to improve students' reading level, we need to enhance the introduction of cultural knowledge and enrich students' content schema. When students have an understanding of the cultural background of English and deeply understand the human customs, religious thoughts and cultural core of English-speaking countries, they will improve the educational significance of content schema. In the process of understanding the main idea of more English articles, students can master the basic English subject content more quickly.

When reading a text, you can quickly select the schema suitable for yourself, which is conducive to understanding the profound meaning of the article. High school English has higher requirements, involving a wider range and richer subjects, which has higher requirements for students' Comprehensive English literacy. Through the introduction of cultural knowledge, students can understand more content schemata and be more relaxed in the process of English learning. According to the reading of articles on different subjects in English, students can also expand their cultural vision and enhance their understanding of the contents of teaching materials.

5. Conclusion

Generally speaking, English education in junior and senior
high schools is facing many problems. Strengthening English reading teaching, combined with schema theory, paying attention to the expansion of students' thinking and further improving students' comprehensive quality is a very key practical point. The basic view of schema theory is completely consistent with English education in junior and senior high schools. Schema theory also puts forward the corresponding guiding direction for English Reading Teaching in junior and senior high schools, which is worthy of every educator's attention and thinking.

References


