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# Exploring the English Teaching Approach of "Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing" Based on "Cultivation of Key Literacy in the Subject of English" and Its Rationale Analysis

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**Abstract:** The English curriculum based on the cultivation of key competences in the Subject of English should cultivate students' key competence in four aspects, namely, language ability, cultural awareness, thinking quality and learning ability. The English Teaching Approach of "Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing" creates a language environment suitable for Chinese foreign language learners. Through the teaching process of integrating reading and writing, students are trained to master basic English knowledge and skills, appreciate excellent cultures, learn to apply critical thinking and innovative thinking, and acquire how to learn independently. This teaching approach provides a theoretical and practical teaching platform and starting point for the real implementation of the curriculum goal of "the Cultivation of Key Competences in the Subject of English", which is helpful to achieve the national education goal of "strengthening moral education and cultivating people".

**Keywords:** English Teaching; Integration of Reading and Writing; Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning Through Writing; Key Competences in the Subject of English.

## 1. Introduction

With the acceleration of globalization and the continuous expansion of international exchanges, English, as an international language, has increasingly become a language that people must master. *The Compulsory Education English Curriculum Standards* officially issued by the Ministry of Education in March 2022 clearly stipulates that the English curriculum should cultivate students' core literacy in four aspects: language literacy, cultural literacy, thinking literacy, and self-learning ability literacy [1]. The promulgation of this curriculum standard marks that English teaching should not only cultivate students' communication skills, but also participate in cultivating their core literacy, helping them develop the necessary qualities and key abilities necessary for social development and their lifelong education [2]. This curriculum standard points out a new development direction for English teaching in China, namely, English teaching should contribute to the educational goal of "cultivating morality and fostering talents" for the country.

## 2. The Teaching Approach of "Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing"

Reading is the input process of English language, while writing is the output process. Through the teaching method of "integrating reading and writing," students can not only learn English knowledge and culture, improve their reading comprehension ability, but also consolidate the learned knowledge and improve their English language output ability through writing. In the process of reading and writing, students need to think and analyze, thereby obtaining critical thinking and creative abilities. Professor Wang Chuming's "Continuation Theory" of English teaching can provide theoretical and methodological support for the contemporary teaching approach of "integrating reading and writing to promote learning through writing." The "Continuation Theory" believes that reading content can lead language learning, activate students' willingness to actively express their ideas, and encourage them to actively learn the language; text reading provides a context for language learning, thereby playing a role in promoting learning; through continued writing after reading, language understanding and language production are closely combined to promote the integration of language learning and use, which is conducive to the cultivation of learners' comprehensive language literacy [3]. The "Continuation Theory" also provides a solid cognitive foundation for the contemporary teaching approach of "integrating reading and writing to promote learning through writing." Continued writing after reading can effectively bond language understanding and language production, making them interact and produce a leveling effect; strong reading comprehension ability can help improve writing ability, thus forming a mutually promotional situation, and the learning effect of integrating reading and writing is formed [4]. The teaching approach of "integrating reading and writing to promote learning through writing" is conducive to reducing students' anxiety level in English learning and increasing their willingness to learn English in the foreign language learning environment without sufficient communication context in China, which is conducive to promoting the improvement of their comprehensive English literacy. The application of this teaching approach to the cultivation of English subject core literacy will help the practical implementation of core literacy cultivation.

# 3. The Integration of "Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing" with the Cultivation of English Subject Core Literacy

## 3.1. The Integration of "Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing" with the Cultivation of English Language Literacy

According to *the Compulsory Education English Curriculum Standards (2022 Edition)*, language literacy refers to the specific ability and literacy to understand and express specific themes through the clever use of linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge and multiple strategies in various contexts [1]. The cultivation of English subject core literacy should be based on improving English language ability. English language literacy education covers aspects such as cultural cognitive literacy, thinking level improvement, and learning method mastery. Its educational value lies in cultivating students' ability to communicate and exchange cross-culturally.

The teaching approach of "integrating reading and writing to promote learning through writing" is conducive to establishing authentic written communication contexts in the foreign language learning environment in China. Through the exemplary role of excellent texts, it helps students' language learning and the cultivation of language literacy. Reading and writing, through their synergistic effect, help students improve their comprehensive language literacy, including vocabulary ability and grammatical ability. Empirical studies have proved that reading and writing integration tasks, including continued writing after reading, can promote the effect of English vocabulary learning [5, 6], improve grammatical ability including language accuracy, complexity, and fluency, thereby activating the synergistic effect of reading and writing integration teaching and promoting the improvement of English teaching efficiency [7].

## 3.2. The Integration of "Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing" with the Cultivation of Cultural Literacy

According to *the Compulsory Education English Curriculum Standards (2022 Edition)*, cultural literacy refers to understanding and appreciating excellent Chinese and Western cultures, reflecting the moral spirit embodied by contemporary students in cross-cultural cognition and actions [1]. In the process of cultivating cultural awareness, the core educational value of English teaching will be fully reflected. English teaching can not only inspire students' patriotism and global vision, but also enhance their moral sentiment, civilized quality, and sense of social responsibility.

The teaching approach of "writing to promote learning" can help students cultivate cultural literacy and awareness. Teachers can organize students to carry out cultural exchanges and discussions after reading and writing tasks, allowing them to share their understanding and perspectives on different cultures. Through interaction and communication, students can broaden their horizons and strengthen their understanding of cross-cultural cognition. Through the teaching approach of "writing to promote learning", students can better understand and experience culture during the reading and writing process, enhance their understanding and appreciation of Chinese and foreign cultures, improve their cultural awareness and core competencies, and promote mutual learning between Chinese and Western civilizations. Empirical research has shown that the teaching approach of combining English reading and writing can effectively promote the improvement of cultural awareness among primary and secondary school students [8, 9].

## 3.3. The Integration of "Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing" with the Cultivation of Thinking Literacy

The 2022 edition of *the English Curriculum Standards for Compulsory Education* believes that thinking literacy is the personal representation of thinking, which can reflect the depth and height of students' understanding, analysis, comparison, reasoning, evaluation, innovation and other aspects. [1]. The cultivation of thinking quality is an important component of the core literacy in English education, which focuses on enhancing students' cognitive abilities in discovering, analyzing and solving problems. Its educational value lies in helping them establish correct values, outlook on life and world view, and make correct and reasonable value judgments.

The method of "reading and writing combined to promote learning through writing" can promote the cultivation of students' thinking literacy. The method of "reading and writing combined to promote learning through writing" can integrate knowledge from different disciplines organically, introducing relevant knowledge such as science, history, and geography in the post-reading writing task. Such interdisciplinary reading and writing tasks can stimulate students' diverse thinking and cultivate their comprehensive analysis and comprehensive judgment abilities. The method of "reading and writing combined to promote learning through writing" encourages collaborative learning and discussion among students. Students' groups work together to complete the post-reading writing task and share their views and analysis, stimulating collective intelligence and cultivating students' cooperative awareness and critical thinking ability. The research case of Chen Zehang and other researchers shows that the approach of combining text reading and writing can effectively cultivate students' thinking quality and literacy [10].

## 3.4. The Integration of "Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing" with the Cultivation of Learning Literacy

The 2022 edition of *the English Curriculum Standards for Compulsory Education* believes that learning literacy mainly refers to the ability to flexibly apply and adjust English learning methods, increase English learning approaches, and improve learning effectiveness awareness and ability [1]. The cultivation of learning literacy constitutes the prerequisite and development condition for the cultivation of core literacy in the English discipline, aiming to cultivate students' autonomous learning ability and lay a good foundation for lifelong learning in the future.

The cultivation of autonomous learning ability is the core of the core literacy framework, which can trigger and lead the

development of other key competencies and is suitable to become the entry point of core literacy research [11]. The method of "combining reading and writing to promote learning through writing" can effectively cultivate students' learning ability. Teachers can set appropriate reading and writing tasks based on students' English proficiency and interests. These tasks can involve topics that students like, or be combined with other subjects that students are studying. By completing these reading and writing tasks, students will not only improve their English expression ability, but also cultivate their problem-solving ability, organization ability, critical thinking ability, etc. Continued reading and writing practice will enable students to gradually form the habit and ability of autonomous learning. Teachers should provide timely feedback and guidance on reading and writing learning strategies, evaluation and suggestions on writing for students, so that students can understand their own learning progress in a timely manner, and also be able to better adjust and improve learning strategies to improve their learning ability.

# 4. The Rationale for the "Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing" Approach of English Core Literacy Development

Chen Yanjun and Liu Dejun, two researchers, strongly advocate the research on the construction of local English teaching theory based on the core literacy of English subjects, and believe that the local English teaching theoretical framework guided by the core literacy of English subjects plays an important guiding role in English teaching practice [12]. The teaching approach of "combining reading and writing to promote learning through writing" is in line with the local English teaching theoretical framework in China and the essence of local English teaching. This approach can promote learning, which is in line with the teaching essence of "learning by doing"; it takes students' learning as the core, which is in line with the teaching subject view of "people-oriented"; it not only promotes learning English language and cultivates language ability, but also promotes learning logical thinking and moral literacy, which is in line with the teaching purpose view of "integration of tool and literacy"; it advocates the study of English language and writing, which is in line with the teaching content view of "integration of language and writing, refinement and generalization"; it advocates the combination of reading and writing, promotes learning through writing, and attaches importance to the reading process and writing practice process, which is in line with the teaching process view of "combination of knowledge and practice".

## 4.1. The Approach of " Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing " Provides a Real Platform for the Cultivation of English Core Literacy

Through this approach, students are not passively receiving and understanding English knowledge, but actively using this knowledge to carry out practical writing expression. This practical learning method enables students to better apply the learned English knowledge and skills and apply them in practical situations. Through the combination of reading and writing, students can better understand and master the language rules and application skills of English, improve their language expression ability. In addition, through writing, students can express their thoughts, opinions and feelings, cultivate critical thinking and creativity, and improve their critical thinking and logical thinking ability. Therefore, the "reading and writing combination to promote learning through writing" approach provides students with a platform for practical application of English, enabling them to cultivate their core qualities while learning the language, and lay a solid foundation for future learning and career development.

## 4.2. The Approach of " Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing " can Serve as a Tool for Implementing the Cultivation of English Core Literacy

Teaching methods are one of the main means to implement the cultivation of core literacy, and the goal of core literacy has a guiding role in the selection of teaching methods [13]. Cheng Shangrong pointed out: "Only by combining the higher-order core literacy with the core literacy of the discipline and truly implementing it throughout the teaching process can core literacy be put into practice, enter the structure of students' literacy, and become their literacy [14]." The 2022 edition of *the Compulsory Education English Curriculum Standards* is essentially an English teaching theory based on local Chinese literacy goals, which has an important guiding role in English teaching in primary and secondary schools. The approach of "writing to promote learning" through reading and writing teaching helps students acquire language knowledge such as vocabulary and grammar in reading texts, learn relevant reading and writing skills, and comprehend the values and perspectives conveyed in them. Through the teaching design of reading and writing, this approach helps students apply the language knowledge, language skills, and critical thinking skills they have learned to express their own views, attitudes, and positions in the reading and writing tasks, communicate and interact with the original author, thereby enhancing their core literacy in English. This teaching approach advocates experiential English reading and reflective writing, reflecting the "experience-reflection" mechanism of students' core literacy [15]; advocates knowledge transfer and integration development, reflecting the "interaction-integration" mechanism of students' core literacy [15]; advocates improving their own discipline literacy structure through continuous reading and writing practice, reflecting the "expansion-restructuring" mechanism of students' core literacy [15].

## 4.3. The Approach of " Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing " is Guided by the Aim of Solving Teaching Problems, Which Improves the Efficiency of Cultivating English Core Literacy

The multidimensional model of problem solving in English learning proposes four types of English learning problems: basic problems, comprehensive problems, realistic problems, and open problems [16]. The approach of "combining reading and writing to promote learning through writing" can help solve the above problems. The teaching approach of

combining reading and writing in English can provide meaningful learning contexts for the basic problems of English vocabulary and grammar learning, and can improve the learning efficiency of basic knowledge points. The summary writing and reading-follow-up writing of combining reading and writing can help students solve the comprehensive problems of cultivating comprehensive English abilities. For the reflective writing of text after reading on current hot issues, students need to use English language knowledge and skills to answer real-life problems, and use critical thinking skills to expand their own perspectives and find solutions, thus solving realistic and open problems. In the reading and writing tasks, students need to solve various learning problems, thus improving their ability to analyze and solve problems, and ultimately effectively enhancing their core literacy in English in the learning process of "integration of learning and application" covering basic and comprehensive complex problems.

### 4.4. The Approach of " Integrating Reading and Writing to Promote Learning through Writing " in the Cultivation of English Core Literacy is also an Educational Practice to Achieve the Goal of "Cultivating Morality and Fostering Talents".

The cultivation of core literacy in English is both a process of developing knowledge and skills in the English language, and an educational process of "Cultivating Morality and Fostering Talents". These two aspects can be perfectly integrated into the teaching process of "combining reading and writing to promote learning through writing" in English. The teaching practice of combining reading and writing in English can achieve the overall educational goal of teaching both English knowledge and cultivating students' comprehensive literacy and moral awareness by integrating cultural elements, strengthening reading and writing skills, guiding discussion and interaction, designing task-based activities, and guiding reflection on moral issues. Through such a practice of cultivating core literacy in English, students can improve their language abilities while cultivating thinking skills, cooperation abilities, and moral qualities, promoting their all-round development, thus achieving the national educational goal of "Cultivating Morality and Fostering Talents".

## 5. Conclusion

Through the teaching method of combining reading and writing, students can learn and apply English in reading and writing. They can not only master English knowledge through reading comprehension, but also consolidate and apply English knowledge through writing. This comprehensive learning method helps students develop the core literacy of English in an all-round way. The approach of "combining reading and writing to promote learning through writing" also meets the requirements of the "double reduction" policy. Through a comprehensive learning method, students can practice the integration of reading and writing in the same time period, reducing the repetitive learning time and fragmented teaching time under traditional teaching methods. At the same time, this teaching approach can flexibly adjust the teaching content according to students' learning progress and interests, thus reducing teachers' teaching burden. The approach of "combining reading and writing to promote learning through writing" can make the cultivation of core literacy in English subject come true, and also implement the "double reduction" policy to a certain extent. Therefore, the author calls on front-line English teachers and relevant scientific researchers to actively participate in relevant teaching empirical research, so as to further improve this theoretical and practical teaching approach.

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