

A Case Study on the Integration of Moral Education Elements into the Teaching of Advanced English I* Course

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Abstract: Taking Lesson 1 of Advanced English I* as an example, this paper demonstrates how to extract elements of ideological and political elements in teaching at the discourse level and integrate them into professional courses based on the curriculum standards and text content, strengthening the fundamental role of the curriculum in establishing virtues and cultivating students. This case won the Special Prize at the 2024 National Competition for Moral Education Cases in Foreign Language Courses in Universities, which can be served as an example for moral elements design in English reading courses.

Keywords: Moral Education; Advanced English I*; Case Analysis.

1. Analysis of the Learning Situation

As an applied undergraduate university, Qingdao Binhai University is oriented to market demand with a focus on the cultivation of practical ability of the talents. Based on a comprehensive investigation, the students here have active thinking basically, but the humanities accumulation, scientific thinking, dialectical perspective and other comprehensive qualities are relatively weak. The English major practices the educational philosophy of "five education integration, holistic education and student-centered education", and emphasizes the cultivation of "double morality" (ideological character and professional ethics) and "double ability" (English language ability and vocational ability). In the senior year, we pay special attention to the enhancement of students' humanistic qualities and offer Advanced English I* course in the first semester of the junior year. After the preliminary study, students have mastered the basic knowledge of English reading, writing, rhetoric, grammar, etc., and have the relevant reserves to understand difficult texts, but the higher-order analytical appreciation, divergent thinking, critical analysis, cross-cultural interpretation and presentation skills need to be strengthened in the appreciation of humanistic value-rich texts[1], to further clarify the value analysis in the cross-cultural context, to set up the correct concepts, and to realize the transmission of knowledge, the cultivation of abilities and the shaping of values, thus to realize the cultivation of knowledge, ability and value shaping.

The content of Advanced English I* articles come from English primary sources, and educational and cultural values often permeate behind the language, so teaching cannot simply be "brought" or "transplanted"[2], but requires accurate value judgment and careful screening and clarification. Against the backdrop of the "Three Entries" work, the course used the dual textbook "Advanced English 1" and "Understanding Contemporary China" by Zhang Hanxi and Sun Youzhong respectively since the fall semester of 2022, and created sufficient online learning resources with the students as the center of the course.

2. Overview of the Case and the Moral Objectives

2.1. Overview of the Article

Face to Face with Hurricane Camille is a compelling narrative that delves into the harrowing experience of encountering one of the most powerful hurricanes in history. This passage tells us how John and his team bravely fought against the hurricane and successfully survived the hurricane. It not only offers a glimpse into the devastating impact of Hurricane Camille but also seeks to convey powerful messages that resonate with each of us.

Hurricane Camille, a category 5 storm, hit the Gulf Coast of the United States in 1969, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. The passage takes us on a journey through the eyes of those who braved the storm, providing a raw and unfiltered account of the struggle for survival and the resilience of the human spirit. It highlights the immense power of nature and paints a vivid picture of the storm's fury, as it describes the relentless winds, towering waves, and the sheer force that uprooted trees, destroyed homes, and claimed lives. The description of the storm serves as a stark reminder that we are but a small part of this vast and unpredictable universe. Nature's power can be both awe-inspiring and terrifying, and it is a force to be reckoned with.

However, John's family's calm, courageous, mutual support and resourcefulness in the face of Hurricane Camille's fury is more than a demonstration of man's infinite wisdom. Though the catastrophe was merciless, people are compassionate, just like the last sentence of the text, although we lost almost all of our possessions, but we are still together, we have lost nothing. Therefore, this article can bring us a lot of thoughts. Whether it is from the personal qualities or with the wisdom to face the difficulties, but also to provoke the relationship between man and nature.

2.2. Moral Education Objectives

(1) **Man and nature.** The Third Plenary Session of the Twentieth Central Committee of the CPC pointed out that Chinese-style modernization is a modernization in which human beings live in harmony with nature. First, the

dialectical view of nature, man and nature is a connected whole, "water can carry a boat, can also cover the boat"; second, the harmonious ecological view. People are very small in front of nature, and it is necessary to respect and protect nature, and to improve the ecological civilization system and the ecological environment management system.

(2) **Family and national sentiment.** People-oriented, embodied in the text, first of all, including valuing the benevolence of friends and relatives, family and friends in the hurricane, "true love and care", the will of the people, the hearts of the people, the warmth of the mountain to move mutual aid; the second is the world's sense of community and a sense of social responsibility, reaching out to rescue, timely rescue, equality of life, caring for the weak and the small; the third level is life and the education of gratitude, cherish everything around us. Gratitude education, cherish everything we have around us.

(3) **Personal qualities.** In the face of disaster, first of all, it is the resilient personal qualities such as bravery, composure, wisdom, calmness, perseverance, not giving up, responsibility, dedication, stubborn resistance, etc., which are refracted from the education of frustration; secondly, it is a kind of benevolence and goodness literacy, being able to take the initiative to care for and help other people, even strangers; and lastly, it is the sense of preparation, "Everything is prepared for, nothing is done in advance".

3. Analysis of Moral Element Extraction and Design

Advanced English I* emphasizes the improvement of students' comprehensive language skills, especially reading comprehension, appreciation and analysis, grammar and rhetoric, translation and writing, cross-cultural thinking and international communication. After years of practice, the team has selected the three major teaching sections of "discourse literacy layer, language skills layer, and innovative application layer" as the entry points of the moral education, combined with the online and offline teaching organization, re-cleared the objectives of the course, and constructed a whole course based on the principle of "one body, two wings, and two lines mixing". The overall structure of moral education is based on not only the excavation of the political elements in the professional courses, but also on the integration of ideological and political contents into the professional teaching; it not only makes full use of the online solo classroom, but also flexibly organizes the offline classroom for appreciating the contents. The overall design of this module is as follows:

3.1. Part 1 Pre-hurricane Preparations

Paragraphs 1-6 are mainly the beginning of the story. It accounts for the basic situation before the arrival of hurricane, such as the family's pre-experience, the composition of the personnel, the basic preparation before the hurricane and so on. At this time, John and his party have not yet perceived the devastation of the disaster. After the hurricane weather alert, John misjudged the situation of the hurricane based on empirical speculation, dissecting the hazards of empiricism. Therefore, it formed a strong contrast with the following emergency escape, and unveiled the smallness of mankind in front of nature. At the same time, we can also see that the John family was equipped with the accumulation and preparation knowledge of survival before an unknown disaster, which

helped them a lot during the escape.

(1) Rationalism. When encountering problems, one should go beyond the limitations of empiricism and use rational thinking and logical reasoning to foresee risks and avoid blindness caused by one-sided reliance on experience; changes in the social environment may make past experience no longer applicable, and Chinese philosophy emphasizes the importance of "learning from things". (*Rites of Passage—The Great Learning*)

(2) Think of danger in times of peace and be prepared. This is an important concept in Chinese culture, to foresee possible dangers and be prepared to deal with them. "In all things, forethought is the key to success, and vice versa (nip sth. in the bud, idiom). (*Rites of Passage—The Doctrine of the Mean*)"

(3) Knowledge is power. It is the best insurance, providing security for life, and knowledge plays an important role in practice. As the saying goes, "The book is not as good as it seems when you need it". (*Addendum to the Confucian Analects of Confucius, Zeng Guang Xian Wen*). Therefore, enough common sense and knowledge for existence us of importance.

3.2. Part 2 Resilience and Escape in Hurricanes

Paragraphs 7-27 are the main body of the text, but also the most wonderful part of the story. With the hurricane's increasing force, the content focused on how to fight with the hurricane, how to survive in the confrontation between man and nature. The vivid character and the spirit of the calmness, wisdom, tenacity, perseverance of the response was portrayed. Each one of them symbolized some characteristics that need to be complimented in disaster.

(1) The view of man and nature. Here involves an understanding of the phrase "Nature is a kind and loving mother, but also a cold butcher" and the appreciation of the two sides of nature. Recognize that everything in the universe should follow its natural laws to maintain harmony and balance, and learn the Chinese wisdom, "The law of man is the law of the earth, the law of the earth is the law of heaven, and the law of heaven is nature." (*Tao Te Ching*). The text concentrates on depicting the forces of nature against the forces of man, who is so small in front of nature.

(2) Awareness of the big picture and responsibility. The main character John gave seven orders in times of crisis, each time concise and clear, calm and firm, reflecting a strong psychological quality. Each time he cried "Count nine!", taking care of every child equally, and all the other neighbors and friends, with a strong sense of the big picture and responsibility, which is truly a representation of "In his place, he seeks his own affairs." (*The Analects*)

(3) Qualities of bravery and perseverance. People are ultimately vulnerable in the face of disaster. The text repeatedly mentions the neighbors' fear and the couple's nervousness, and embodies the helplessness of people in the face of the unknown through the children huddling together, singing chants, and praying, even including John, who held his head in his hands and prayed to heaven because he regretted having made a wrong decision. But all, without exception, persevered during the whole process. In the face of adversity, one must have the conviction to not give up, to be firm, and to persevere to the end.

(4) The Power of Love. The rhythm of the escape in the nick of time is interspersed with four other warm scenes, each

time featuring a group of people, presenting all the love and care between people and confirming that unity and faith can be a positive force. Love is unstoppable and indestructible.

(5) Dedication: John's friend Charlie didn't leave him alone, but quietly assisted John in the process, took care of his neighbors, showed full commitment in front of the old, the weak and the young. Although he injured his back in the hurricane, he still quietly insisted to the end and helped the relief work afterwards.

(6) The concept of equality of life. At the moment of life and death, animals are mentioned three times, and even again at the end of the text, cats and dogs are also present, reflecting the equality and tenacity of life. Life is equal, and we are all family.

(7) Intercultural elements. The prayers to God and the attention to cats and dogs in the process reflected cross-cultural elements. These are cultural differences we need to discern and comprehend, which can improve communicative competence.

3.3. Part 3 Post-hurricane Relief

Paragraphs 28-39 talk about the rescue and rebuilding of homes across the country after the hurricane. Through the family's conversation, the big theme of the article is conveyed: courageous perseverance, merciless disaster, external love. As long as the family is together, people are still there, nothing is more important.

(1) Unity of will is an impregnable stronghold. "When one party is in trouble, all sides come to the aid". This is the fine tradition of our Chinese nation. In combating natural disasters, epidemics and other difficult moments, we should resolutely support and selflessly assist, and work together to overcome difficulties." (Xi Jinping). The Chinese people should uphold this spirit and help each other to overcome difficulties.

(2) Community of Destiny. "In the face of disaster, mankind is a community of destiny, and solidarity, cooperation and joint efforts are the only right choice for us to overcome challenges." (Xi Jinping). In the face of disaster, unity and cooperation in overcoming difficulties are the cornerstones of overcoming difficulties and rebuilding our homes.

(3) View of life. In the face of disaster, staying alive is the most important thing. General Secretary Xi Jinping has emphasized that "people come first, life comes first, and the protection of people's life safety and health can be achieved at any cost." In the face of a disaster, it is vital to ensure the safety of everyone's life, and the protection of people's lives must be prioritized.

(4) The quality of will. "When there is a green mountain left, there is no fear of no wood to burn; Where there's life there's hope." (*Surprising Cases from the Initial Carving* by Ling Mengchu). As long as the foundation or root still exists, there is hope and future. Even when faced with difficulties, as long as life still exists, there is hope for overcoming difficulties and starting afresh.

(5) Humanitarianism. Humanitarianism refers to an ethical theory that emphasizes respect for the dignity, worth, and well-being of the human person and advocates the improvement of the human condition through compassion and care, especially assistance to suffering people in situations of disaster, war, or other crises. "Those who are benevolent love others." (*The Analects*)

(6) Dialectical view of gain and loss. "A blessing in disguise is not a blessing in disguise" (*Miscellany of Writing*

from the Western Han (former Han), *Huainanzi - Human Discipline*). Although it may seem to have suffered a loss or misfortune at the beginning, in the end it may be a blessing in disguise, and bad things can be transformed into good things under certain conditions, so when you suffer misfortunes, stay optimistic and believe that things will always turn out well.

(7) Cross-cultural elements. There are some Chinese-English cultural differences involved, such as the semantic judgments of color words. Blue is used to show bad mood in the west, etc. For example, I feel blue today.

4. Expanding the Analysis of the Main Theme

4.1. Major Themes

(1) Resilience and Bravery. The passage illustrates the incredible resilience and bravery of the individuals who faced the storm. Despite the overwhelming odds, they fought to save their families, their homes, and their communities. This teaches us that, no matter how daunting the challenge, we must draw upon our inner strength to overcome adversity. When we encounter our own hurricanes in life, whether they be personal struggles, professional setbacks, or global crises, we too must rise to the occasion with resilience and courage. We must remember that our ability to persevere is a testament to the human spirit.

(2) Community and Solidarity. The passage also emphasizes the importance of community and solidarity in times of crisis. In the face of such a catastrophic event, neighbors, friends, and strangers came together to support one another. This unity in the face of adversity serves as a powerful reminder that we are stronger when we stand together. In our modern world, where divisiveness and conflict often dominate the headlines, the message of unity and solidarity is more important than ever. We must strive to build communities that support one another, where we can find solace and strength in our shared experiences.

(3) The Fragility of Life. The passage poignantly captures the fragility of life in the face of natural disasters. It reminds us that life can change in an instant, and that we must cherish the time we have. It encourages us to live fully, to embrace each day, and to appreciate the simple joys of life. As we reflect on the lessons of *Face to Face with Hurricane Camille*, let us also remember to be grateful for the precious gift of life and to make the most of every moment.

(4) The Importance of Preparedness. Lastly, the passage serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of preparedness. It shows that, while we cannot control natural disasters, we can take measures to mitigate their impact. This includes investing in infrastructure, developing emergency plans, and fostering a culture of preparedness in our communities.

4.2. Cross-cultural Empathy

Cross-cultural empathy refers to the ability to understand and share the feelings of people from different cultural backgrounds. It is an essential ingredient in fostering a global community that is capable of responding effectively to the needs of its members, regardless of geographical boundaries. When Hurricane Camille struck the southeastern United States in 1969, the impact was devastating. Homes were destroyed, lives were lost, and communities were left reeling from the aftermath. However, the response from the global community was a testament to the power of cross-cultural

empathy and the shared sense of responsibility that exists within the human family.

The concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, championed by the Chinese government, emphasizes the importance of joint efforts to address global challenges and to promote the wellbeing of all people. In the context of disasters, this means that countries should work together to provide aid and support to those in need, regardless of their nationality or cultural background. During the aftermath of Hurricane Camille, the United Nations played a crucial role in coordinating international relief efforts. The organization facilitated the distribution of aid and resources, ensuring that the affected communities received the necessary support to rebuild their lives. This collaborative approach exemplifies the spirit of a community with a shared future for mankind, where nations come together to address the needs of their fellow human beings.

Feelings of empathy and love transcended cultural boundaries during this time. People from around the world felt the pain and suffering of those affected by the hurricane, and this emotional connection inspired action. For instance, schools and communities organized fundraisers to support the victims, while individuals donated money, clothing, and supplies to those in need. This outpouring of empathy and love demonstrated that, despite our differences, we are all part of a single human family. By working together, nations can share their expertise and resources, leading to more effective and efficient responses to crises. This collaboration can take many forms, from sharing technological advancements and best practices to providing training and support for emergency responders.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, *Face to Face with Hurricane Camille* is not just a story about a catastrophic storm. It is a narrative that encapsulates the resilience, unity, and fragility of the human experience. It reminds us that, in the face of nature's fury, our ability to rise above the challenges, to support one another, and to cherish life is what defines us as human beings.

In *The Dialectic of Nature*, Engels states, "Let us not revel too much in our human victories over nature. For every such victory, nature retaliates against us." Dialectical materialism holds that man and nature are in a dialectical and unified relationship. The role of mankind's social and practical activities in transforming nature has a dual nature: it has both a positive and a negative side. If human beings can correctly recognize the laws of nature and appropriately grasp the relationship between human beings and nature, they will be able to continuously achieve the results of transforming nature, enhance human beings' ability to adapt to nature, and improve their ability to understand and transform nature. Human beings must strive to realize the harmonious development of man and himself, rather than overindulging in blind victory over nature.

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