

# The importance and implementation of moral education in English teaching in primary and secondary schools

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**Abstract:** In the traditional concept, it seems that English learning is something only concerning language teaching and that success is to master words, sentences and grammar. However, it is believed that teaching can't be departed from the teaching and there are rich cultural and ideological meanings in English teaching that are to be explored. There is no doubt that English teaching is no easy task only about language, instead, it should be regarded as a tool that serves for the development of socialist modernization.

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## 1. Introduction

Let's take the Internet as the example: In recent years, the Net has been much developed, through which people across the globe exchange information, share contents and express opinions. The communication between the world and China has been much convenient so that we can learn the latest academic achievements, discuss the trend of human future, and understand the lifestyle and living concept of foreigners. This is beneficial to our development and obedient to our policy and philosophy of reform and opening up. However, every coin has two sides. The internet consists of people of all walks of life, who are either students or social worker, or scholars or enemies who are corrupt and wicked. All of them share information both positive and negative. In view of this, position of public opinion must not be lost!

Similarly, moral education must not be neglected in English teaching. Compared with other subjects, English teaching has its particularity. On the one hand, it's just a language; On the other hand, it is closely connected with western cultural ideology. How to deal with the relationship between Chinese and foreign traditional culture, how students treat Christmas, Thanksgiving Day, and how to treat Western thought and culture need our careful treatment. Under the background of the development of the new era and the educational background of the reform of the new curriculum standard, China has put forward a new requirement for English teaching to meet the needs of the development of the new era: to cultivate students' language ability, cultural accomplishment, thinking quality and learning ability. Foreign language teaching in compulsory education should be in line with the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. We are not learning English to worship foreign languages, not to endow the Chinese with universal Western values. Instead, we learn English in the purpose of mastering the world's advanced scientific and technological knowledge, cultivating cross-cultural thoughts, paying attention to our traditional culture, and then going abroad to tell Chinese stories well in English, thus we can change foreigner's attitudes toward China. The fundamental aim is to serve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In view of this, English moral education is very important.

Moral education should be carried out as early as possible, and the correct ideas and concepts should be imparted to the next generation.

## 2. What aspects should primary and middle school English teachers pay attention to?

### 2.1. Love is motivation

If a student lives in ridicule, he learns isolation and resentment; If the student lives in comparison and preference, he learns complacency, complacency, contempt and envy. If a student lives in a scolding, there will be a

an indelible scar in his heart; If a student lives in disregard, he learns to close himself off and distrust himself. In short, the damage may be exchanged for a temporary power, but it also left a negative energy in the invisible. If a student lives in the attention, care, recognition, respect and encouragement, he will try his best to return the teacher's kindness, as Pygmalion said: the teacher's voice and appearance, can nourish the hearts of students and bring students motivation, so that students benefit a lot.

How to deal with students of different performance? First of all for students who perform well, we can not ignore, you know, the teacher's feedback is a big driving force for students to learn, so, for top students, we can tolerate, but never let them hang out. Above all, let them know that they hold a high position in our hearts. Secondly, We need to give constant attention to students who are not performing well, even if they are not performing well, we need to give positive feedback: great, excellent, you have made great progress... And in a subtle way help students correct mistakes.

Finally, we should give continuous attention to everyone. Even if the cultivation of students is a long-term boring process, as long as the teacher can treat them with patience, earnest and unremitting help, fruits of education will finally reap.

For students with average performance, we should pay considerable attention to them and clearly express our recognition of their ability. Sincerity is the ultimate skill. Only when students feel our enthusiasm and attendance, will they return us with diligent study.

## 2.2. Integrate patriotism education with English teaching

Based on Marxism's theory of all-round human development, our country's educational purpose is to train talents of all levels and types with independent personality and all-round development of moral, intellectual, physical, American and labor. This determines the socialist direction of our education, which trains the builders of the country and the masters of the country. Therefore, we must put patriotism in the first place in education and prevent students from coveting, infiltrating and sugar-coated shells. When we learn about the country words: Canada, America, Australia, Japan and China. We should ask our children, Where are you from? Yes, We are Chinese.

When learning the characteristic architectures like Statue of Liberty, Eiffel Tower, Big Ben. We should ask students have you ever been to the Great Wall? What's more, we'd better help students understand the construction process of the Great Wall, the difficulty and significance of construction, and cultivate students' patriotic feelings. When learning sports, ask them which athlete do you like best? Why do you like Liu Xiang? Because Liu Xiang has won many honors for China. To educate students, we have the best athletes in the world, and we enjoy a high reputation in sports. When learning about the natural scenery, play a video of foreign travelers visiting Huang Mountain and feel the magnificence of Huang Mountain. That is to say, in China, there are unique, splendid scenery known to all the world. So we should be proud of our country.

## 2.3. Insist the right stance

The Internet has been greatly popularized, but it is full of all kinds of content. Primary and secondary school students have not yet formed the ability to distinguish the right from wrong, good from evil, beauty and ugliness, nor do they have enough self-control to resist the erosion of bad ideas. There is an old saying in China like, Teaching a man to fish is better than giving him fish, and our responsibility is to cultivate students' consciousness of resisting the temptation of bad information. In recent years, there are some bloggers worshiping things for foreign and fawning on foreign countries. An Chinese student studying abroad once said in America that the air in the United States is so sweet; Even Sima Nan, a well-known Internet blogger, bought a villa in the United States while criticizing the United States on the Internet. Netizens sarcastically commented: Criticising American is his work while living in the US is his life. Such public figures that confuse the public are harmful to the young people. Therefore, English teaching shoulders an extremely important task: to hold our public opinion position, to learn foreign excellent traditional culture and advanced technology at the same time, do not forget the excellent traditional Chinese culture, to establish a correct attitude towards Chinese and foreign culture; Keep in mind the

historical mission to achieve the great rejuvenation of China, never forget the original intention, and carry forward the fine traditional Chinese culture.

#### **2.4. Cultivate good personality**

Primary and secondary school students are in the key stage of establishing outlook on life, world and values, with strong plasticity. Subjects like Chinese, History, political lessons all shoulder the task of cultivating students' good character. English also plays an educational role in many aspects: under the three major themes of man and self, man and society, and man and nature, many sub-themes are set up, which bring English teaching close to life and edifies students' minds with a new perspective of language. For example, under the theme of Man and nature, we opened a series, Why do you like animals? After learning this lesson, we have mastered the animal words, describe the appearance of animals, and express the likes and dislikes of animals. This imperceptibly led the students to love wild animals. On this basis, students are shown the dangerous situations faced by wild animals in recent years, to stimulate their compassion for wildlife, and to reflect on what contributions can be made to protect ecological diversity. This way of moral education is not taken into account by the Chinese and ideological moral lessons.

#### **2.5. Cultivate students' cooperative consciousness and collectivism spirit through English teaching**

In modern families, especially those in city, there are many only children. They are loved at home and are prone to self-centered ideas. Teachers can cultivate students' ability of communication, interaction and coordination through role-playing and situational teaching. We should teach students that not all tasks can be completed by one person. We should show the strength of a team by presenting realistic cases such as choir, flood fighting and rescue, and scientific inquiry. Teachers can also hold various competition activities, such as group competition, male and female competition, male and female mixed competition, etc., to enhance students' collective sense of honor and achievement.

For example, when learning new words, teachers give students cards with written letters, and students compete to see who can spell the word faster. The benefit of doing so is not only to exercise the memory, but also to cultivate their spirit of cooperation. In the competition, some groups can divide their work reasonably, discuss with each other and pool their ideas; However, in some groups, some students did not let other students do it at all, nor did they listen to suggestions, and lacked team spirit. As a result, they were not only the slowest, but also complained to each other. Teachers should timely help them find the reasons for lagging behind, and make them understand that in the face of team tasks, everyone must put the personal heroic thinking behind, sort out the overall view, and take the interests of the team as the first. Teachers can visually introduce the relationship between "water drop and the sea": the power of a drop of water is limited, but when it enters the sea and integrates with the sea, it will acquire infinite power; A person's power is limited, only in the collective can his ability be maximized. Over time, in the happy but also tense competition, students' collectivism concept and cooperation consciousness have been strengthened.

#### **2.6. Infiltrate etiquette knowledge in the classroom**

When we walk into the restaurant, we should ask waiter, excuse me, can I take a order. I would like.... please. When we want to sit with a stranger, we say: Would you mind my sitting here? If the other person says no, then we can take a seat. Language is the carrier of information, and language itself has no practical significance, which can only play a role when it is applied to a specific occasion. It is only when related to the reality of life, can it stimulate the enthusiasm and motivation for students to learn English well. While learning language, students also imperceptibly cultivate their own etiquette and morality.

#### **2.7. Infiltrate ideal education into English teaching**

Ideal is rock, and it sparks fire at being struck. Ideal is fire, and it lights extinguished lamp. Ideal is lamp, and

and it brightens road for night travelers. Ideal is road, and it leads you towards dawn. English teaching is more than just teaching a language. In our country, foreign language learning is just a carrier, which carries a lot of things, such as ideals. People are great because of their ideals, and many people have changed their lives because of their ideals. Under the theme of man and self, we should educate students to deal with their own relationship, in which ideal is an unavoidable part. So how to carry out ideal education, we can use the power of example: in the sports theme unit, we can list many successful athletes, we firstly introduce their life track, from the beginning of the family, nameless, to inspirational change life, to later harvest success and then continue to move forward. Observation learning is a very common way of human learning. When students observe the success of others, they will stimulate their own desire to succeed. We can make use of the example of Yao Ming, Liu Xiang and Zhang Weili to inspire students' desire for victory. After learning the story of Mandela, we should encourage students to establish a sincere mind and cultivate the lofty ambition of governing the country. Encourage the students to fight bravely and embark on the ideal road of serving the people. When learning about the chapter on wildlife conservation, cultivate students' reverence for wildlife and help students with ideals to enter the work of protecting nature.

## 2.8. Carry out gratitude education

In our Chinese English class, we should understand Thanksgiving, but we should not guide students to worship Thanksgiving blindly. Instead, we can tell students the story of Thanksgiving, the story of white Americans and Native Indians. Let the students live in a sober, rather than living in the ideals and dreams woven by lies, let the children understand that the so-called beacon of the world, the United States Empire, is only whitewashed through force and hegemony. The same goes for Christmas Day. What is Christmas Day, and what is Christ? Teach students the truth that Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus. Students can praise the high qualities of Jesus and inspire themselves by his story, but it is not advocated that students blindly worship Christmas. Instead, we should arm ourselves with Marxist thought. We should pay more attention to our national festivals. For example, we can focus on Father's Day, Mother's Day, Women's Day, Labor Day, August 1 Army Day, etc., feel the hard work of parents for us, and thank the PLA soldiers for their contributions to our personal safety.

Instead of blindly learning how foreigners eat turkey, we can offer suggestions to students, such as making greeting cards in Chinese and English, buying a bunch of carnations, or doing laundry for parents, to express our gratitude. Notice that superficial learning is just to find an excuse for pleasure. For example, the festival, in the beginning, is not used to celebrate, but the meaning of temperance, such as Cold Food Festival. In the Spring and Autumn Period, the prince Chong'er of the State of Jin, with the help of loyal minister Jie Zitui, went through many difficulties and dangers to ascend the throne of the king. But Jie Zitui is not interested in fame and wealth, unwilling to be rewarded, and would rather burn himself in the mountain. Therefore, on this day of Cold Food Festival, people eat cold food to appreciate Jie Zitui's high moral integrity and encourage themselves not to degenerate. Therefore, in English teaching, foreign festivals can be studied with its educational significance, rather than be used as a tool for celebration and enjoyment.

## 3. The infiltration strategy of moral education in English teaching

In a diversified teaching environment, there are more than one channel, idea and method for moral education infiltration. We need to exploit and use them fully. The classroom is a main position for imparting knowledge and educating people and an important venue for teaching activities. In the process of English teaching, teachers should infiltrate and teach moral elements and moral concepts from multiple angles[1].

### 3.1. Explore the elements of moral education based on the text

In the English textbook for high school, each unit is a context created to improve the ability of the relationship between man and himself, man and society, man and nature: family, friendship, social life, scientific and technology

hnological development, return to nature. This is an important material for our moral education. Since many elements of moral education are hidden in the text, we teachers should dig them carefully, combine the theme of the text with students' physical and mental development and with their acceptance ability, and pass them on to students in a way that students are willing to accept. This requires that we should not only focus on the text itself, but also surface the thoughts and emotions contained in the text to display them to students, encourage students to actively absorb them, and cultivate and improve their vision, moral character and feelings.

When we study a unit on wildlife, our goal is not just to encourage students to express their preferences. Students may like some animals and dislike others. There is no problem with people's preferences, but we should guide students to cultivate feelings of universal love, rather than favor some and hate others. We can show students videos about elephants being killed by poachers to inspire empathy and compassion for wild animals. It is necessary to know that human and wild animals exist on the earth together with a shared future, and to save wild animals is to save human beings themselves.

### **3.2. Create situation and moral education atmosphere**

For young students, long-winded narration inevitably produces boring emotions. The low interest in learning will further hinder the cultivation of ideology and morality. We should stimulate students' interest in learning, combine the unit theme with life and create scenes closest to life so that we can inspire students to think about the situation, create a good moral education atmosphere, so as to achieve the expected goal.

Example: In the thematic unit Why do you like pandas, students are expected to improve their idea in the area of man and nature, from the emotional understanding of wild animals, such as love, fear, prejudice, etc., gradually rose to the rational, deeper understanding.

We can start with some lovely and beautiful animals to stimulate students' interest and attract students' attention. In this process, we need to actively engage with students. Students have a strong desire to express their opinions and emotions, which is the key to lively classroom atmosphere. After the students have expressed their opinions, we should give our own opinions. Teachers' opinions should be as fair and scientific as possible to help students correct their biases. For example, some students say that lions are terrible, so they hate lions; Cats are cute, so cats do everything right. In fact, all creatures have spirits, and every animal, whether beautiful or ugly, should be treated fairly by human. There is no good or evil in animals. We cannot apply our narrow view of good and evil to animals. After correcting the students' idea of treating animals, we can play a video of illegally hunting African elephants to stimulate students' sympathy for African elephants. Finally, we will explain the significance of biodiversity to human beings from a scientific point of view. It can be said that protecting biodiversity is protecting human beings themselves. In the corresponding situation, human beings can naturally establish the correct concept of animal protection, which is much better than the teacher's preaching and rote.

### **3.3. Strengthen moral education cognition in connection with reality**

In fact, moral education and our lives are inseparable. To improve the moral level of students, there is no better way than linking education with reality. In the actual teaching, we can use the role models in the text, such as hurdler Liu Xiang, mixed martial arts athlete Zhang Weili and so on, these humble, hungry ordinary persons eventually achieved success, encourage students to fight bravely, the courage to develop.

### **3.4. Cooperation training to enhance moral education effectiveness**

The greatness of mankind lies in its sense of socialization and cooperation. Cooperation with others is not only an important way to cultivate students' moral character, but also an important standard to measure one's moral character. Based on the text, we can design interesting cooperative activities, such as role playing, group competition, and peer assistance, so that students can deeply realize that the strength of a single person is limited, but the strength of a team is unlimited. For example, we can ask students to design a sports meeting poster, students good at copywriting, painting, and propaganda will do their own work respectively, by which task will

be completed in a short time.

In conclusion, moral education in English teaching is a new requirement for teachers under the background of education reform, and it is also a necessary measure to train high-quality talents. Therefore, in the construction of curriculum ideology and politics, instructors should first be knowledgeable and virtuous, with strong ideals and beliefs, and set a good example for students. In specific teaching practice, instructors need to carefully design topics or contents with moral education in each link of classroom teaching, and combine language learning, competence cultivation with moral elements, and achieve the best effect of moistening things silently[2]. As a result, students can not only master basic knowledge and skills, but also lift their ideological height, form an optimistic, hard-working, tolerant, cooperative and enterprising life attitude, all of which will finally lay an ideological foundation for students' future study and career.

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