

A Brief Discussion on Chinese Cultural Translation Teaching in University English Education

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Abstract: With the widespread dissemination of Chinese culture, the demand for translating Chinese culture to foreign languages has become increasingly common. In the field of university English translation education, guiding students to tell Chinese stories in English is a significant task. This paper explores the research on Chinese cultural translation teaching in university English education.

Keywords: English Teaching; Chinese Culture; Translation

1. The Current Situation of Chinese Traditional Culture Integration in University English Teaching

Culture is the foundation of language, and language is the continuation of culture; the two are inseparable. In the process of university English teaching, while the transmission of language knowledge is important, cultural learning should not be overlooked. As the significance of Chinese culture in English education has gradually been recognized, the study of Chinese culture is being incorporated into university English curricula. This requires in-depth research on university English translation teaching, improving existing teaching models to enhance students' translation abilities and promote the better dissemination of Chinese culture.

Ethnic culture is the fundamental basis for a nation to stand in the world. China boasts a long history of over 5,000 years, leaving us with a splendid and profound civilization. Examples include ancient philosophical thoughts, scientific and technological advancements, Tang poetry, Song ci, and the remarkable achievements of our ancestors in astronomy, geography, medicine, and agriculture, which are the crystallization of thousands of years of wisdom. Excellent traditional culture has nourished the Chinese people and has played an undeniable role in

the development of society. the distinguished British philosopher Arnold Joseph Toynbee pointed out in his works that Chinese traditional culture, especially the Confucian concept of "benevolence" and the Mohist idea of "universal love," offers a "remedy" for solving various contemporary world issues. the famous scholar Ji Xianlin also delved into the topic of "Eastern learning spreading to the West," analyzing the profound influence of Chinese culture and further developing and promoting our country's excellent traditional culture, which is also an important task of university English education.

However, the current situation regarding the integration of traditional culture in university English education is concerning. Many university students do not have sufficient understanding of their own national culture. the English translation of Chinese culture involves the exchange and collision of two different cultures and concepts. To achieve this, students must have sufficient learning and understanding of traditional Chinese culture during the English teaching process. Among these, translation education plays an important role in achieving this goal.

2. The Necessity of Chinese Culture Translation Teaching in University English Education

2.1 Course Standards Requirements

The newly released curriculum teaching requirements from the Ministry of Education state that the goal of university English education is to enable students to have comprehensive English proficiency and cultural literacy to meet the needs of national development and international exchanges. the course teaching requirements also specify that after completing the university English courses, non-English major students in regular universities must possess certain skills in English-Chinese translation, with specific

qualitative and quantitative indicators for each stage of teaching, ranging from translation speed to language style and translation accuracy. Currently, university English classroom teaching cannot meet these requirements. To achieve these objectives, it is necessary to reasonably adjust the implementation of university English courses, increase the proportion of translation sections, and continuously improve teaching quality.

2.2 Social Development Demands

With the development of China's "going global" strategy, the demand for translation professionals has been growing. University talent training programs should align with social needs to better serve societal development. China's diplomatic activities have expanded across political, economic, trade, and cultural fields, and society now demands higher proficiency in English, as well as talents for interpretation and translation. In recent years, the increasing popularity of translation certification exams further proves this point. Against the backdrop of globalizing Chinese culture and the social and economic development of China, the demand for translation professionals in various fields has risen. Therefore, strengthening translation teaching in university English education is imperative.

3. Strategies for Teaching Chinese Culture Translation in University English Education

3.1 Understanding Sino-Western Cultural Differences and Updating Textbook Content

In the translation of Chinese culture, it is essential to understand the differences between Chinese and Western cultures and to compare and analyze them. To help students recognize cultural differences during the translation process, a solid foundation in cultural literacy is necessary. University English curricula should focus on fostering cultural and literary literacy.

Currently, most popular university English textbooks emphasize listening, speaking, and reading, but lack sufficient training in cross-cultural translation. Translation requires not only an understanding of other cultures but also an in-depth knowledge of one's own culture. By recognizing the distinctions between the two, translation quality can be

improved. Students often lack the necessary cultural background and knowledge, which can create difficulties during translation exercises. Furthermore, as future promoters of Chinese culture, university students should integrate the study of traditional culture into their English learning. English textbooks should serve as vehicles for passing down and promoting traditional Chinese culture. It is suggested that university English textbooks strike a balance between Chinese and Western content, focusing on the social, historical, cultural, and technological aspects of both, with effective comparative learning. By comparing the similarities and differences between Chinese and Western cultures, students can acquire knowledge and skills in cross-cultural communication, which will lay a solid foundation for Chinese cultural translation.

3.2 Optimizing Practice Structure and Strengthening the Link Between Theory and Practice

Looking at the current university English courses, both in-class and extracurricular exercises mainly focus on grammar and reading practice, with translation exercises taking up too small a proportion. Furthermore, very little attention is given to paragraph and passage translation. Additionally, because the textbooks do not include Chinese traditional culture, there is little time in after-class practice to incorporate this aspect. This approach neither meets societal needs nor provides sufficient practice opportunities for translation exercises. Therefore, in university English teaching, it is necessary to further strengthen the effectiveness of translation teaching and adjust the teaching model accordingly.

On this basis, translation exercises should be optimized by increasing the quantity and proportion of translation practices, and the difficulty and balance of sentence, paragraph, and passage translation should be appropriately adjusted. the content of translation exercises should focus on a blend of Chinese and Western cultures.

The purpose of university English translation courses is to enable students to understand translation theories and apply certain principles in their translation work. Therefore, during translation teaching, teachers' theoretical instructions should be appropriate in depth,

clear, and easy to understand, with a focus on practical translation theories, such as translation standards, strategies, methods, and techniques. This will help students better grasp the direction of translation. Furthermore, to excel in both English and Chinese language communication, repeated practice is necessary to master the languages and use different expressions in various linguistic contexts. Therefore, translation teaching must be carefully analyzed, with a focus on increasing practical exercises, allowing students to improve their translation skills through continuous practice.

As the importance of Chinese culture in English education continues to be recognized, in-depth research into university English translation teaching is essential to improving

existing teaching models, enhancing students' translation abilities, and promoting the further spread of Chinese culture.

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