A Study on the Practice of Cross-Cultural Education in English Translation Teaching in Colleges and Universities

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Abstract: With the rapid development of economy and information technology, the world is becoming smaller, and the exchanges between countries more and more frequent. Nowadays, with the increasing process of globalization, the important function of English as a global language is becoming more and more prominent, and additionally, simultaneous interpretation has become the representative of high-end work. Colleges and universities are the cradle of English translators. Due to the huge cultural differences between different languages, learning a single language skill is difficult to achieve deep communication, which directly affects the accuracy of translation. Based on the importance of English translation teaching in colleges and universities, this thesis makes a detailed analysis of the problems existing in English teaching in colleges and universities and puts forward some suggestions and measures in order to contribute to the good development of English translation teaching.

1. Introduction

As an important communication tool and process between different language societies, the importance of translation is self-evident. It transforms all kinds of situations in the real world into another form through languages. There is a close relationship between translation and culture, which is the exchange and transmission of culture. Only by constantly improving the ability of English translation will the cultural, political and economic development between countries be more smooth. English and Chinese are born in two completely unused cultural backgrounds. If we can't accurately grasp the two backgrounds, we will get twice the result with half the effort. Therefore, cross-cultural education should be emphasized in English translation teaching in colleges and universities to deepen students’ understanding of the cultural differences between the two countries and improve their mastery of the two languages.

2. The Importance of Cross-Cultural Teaching

Language is an important communication tool between people and the oral expression of written words. As the core of communication between countries, translation activities can not be separated from the support of language and culture so that the translated things will have a sense of beauty. Due to the differences in growth background, domestic students know nothing about the
environment of English-speaking countries, and their translations are often influenced by their own culture, which makes the translated content mixed with Chinese awareness. Therefore, only by strengthening cross-cultural learning can students deeply understand the unique charm of the English language. In English teaching in colleges and universities in the past, teachers often ignore the explanation of English culture, resulting in translators making mistakes in the face of some idioms and idioms. Colleges and universities should strengthen cross-cultural education and strive to achieve the integration of the two cultures, so as to improve the quality of English translation teaching and strive to train more high-end and sophisticated talents in line with the international community.

3. The Main Problems Existing in English Teaching in Colleges and Universities At Present

3.1 Professional teachers’ Lacking Awareness of Cross-Cultural Education.

Although the establishment of English translation majors in colleges and universities in China has existed for a long time, the development of cross-cultural education is still beset by all kinds of difficulties. At present, many universities and teachers do not realize the importance of cross-cultural education and still focus on basic knowledge such as words and grammar. In the actual teaching process, it is rarely mixed with cross-cultural content, and the teaching effect is not satisfactory. In addition, translation teachers in most colleges and universities lack the skills of cross-cultural education, let alone systematic study, so it is difficult to take up the important task of cross-cultural education.

3.2 Translation majors’ Lacking Awareness of Cross-Cultural Learning.

The great differences between the two languages and cultures make it more difficult for college students to study, they often have rebellious emotions to resist foreign cultures. The goal of many college students in learning English is very simple, that is, to pass the grade examination and get a diploma and employment smoothly. In our daily life, the influence of national traditional culture is everywhere, which makes English knowledge useless and English communication ability difficult to improve.

3.3 Loopholes in Teaching Methods and No Systematic Contents of Education.

College students are the recipients of English knowledge because colleges and universities have not yet established a perfect cross-cultural teaching system, there are many problems in curriculum design, such as the lack of systematic teaching materials, unreasonable teaching content and so on. Most of the English culture of domestic college students comes from the Internet and movies, so it is difficult to find out the differences between the two languages and cultures.

4. Proposed Measures

4.1 To Establish a Correct Understanding of Cross-Cultural Education.

Colleges and universities should establish a correct understanding of cross-cultural education and popularize the importance of cross-cultural education to teachers and students in a variety of ways. Only when everyone attaches importance to it can we really change the current situation. English translation teachers are the carriers and disseminators of cross-cultural knowledge. They should update their educational ideas and academic trends in time, collect relevant contents on the basis of
completing teaching tasks and constantly improve their professional skills.

4.2 To Refine the Teaching Methods.

The emergence of information technology has changed our lives. English teachers in colleges and universities should actively make use of modern technology to increase the interest of cross-cultural teaching. The use of all-English teaching methods and rich body language to liven up the classroom atmosphere.

Teachers should design different teaching methods according to the characteristics of students and guide students to get started with interest so as to get twice the result with half the effort.

4.3 To Help Students Build Up Cross-Cultural Awareness.

Helping students to establish correct cross-cultural awareness is very important to the improvement of English translation ability. As most domestic colleges and universities still use the examination mode of basic knowledge and translation, teachers only teach knowledge, ignoring the importance of cross-cultural content. Therefore, many students are unable to express their meaning correctly in translation, which limits the improvement of students' translation ability.

4.4 Reasonable Selection of Teaching Materials.

Most of the students majoring in English translation in colleges and universities are the results of examination-oriented education, so they tend to prefer language knowledge and translation practice to the deliberate neglect of cultural learning in English-speaking countries. It is impossible for a qualified translator to do a good job of translation only with basic language knowledge and translation skills. The school should adopt diversified teaching methods to let students understand the close relationship between language and culture and treat cross-cultural learning with a fair attitude. For example, translation teachers can create real communication scenes to guide students to study hard, understand the differences between foreign culture and native culture, and stimulate interest in learning.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, the important role of cross-cultural teaching in English translation is self-evident. Culture is an important component of translation, and the two are closely related. As an important tool for cross-cultural communication, translation activities need to rely on a specific cultural environment in order to carry out smoothly. Colleges and universities should get rid of the traditional misunderstanding of educational cognition, increase the content of cross-cultural teaching and improve the level of translation teaching.

References