

A Study on Critical Thinking of Chinese College L2 English Writers

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Abstract: The paper focuses on the central topic of critical and innovative thinking in the English writing of Chinese undergraduate college students. The two dimensions of critical-thinking and problem-solving competence are analysed from the evaluations of student authors and the teacher judges. The writing data analysed are from corpus based on 2012 FLTRP ETIC CUP writing. The theme topic of the writing competition is what kind of lifestyle changes have been brought to people by human progress and technology and what enlightenment it has for the future. Around this theme, it can be seen that the college student author can not only explain and understand the central idea deeply, but also analyze its influence from a critical thinking perspective. In the argumentation three new innovative ideas are put forward. It can be seen from the analysis that the English argumentative writing of Chinese undergraduates basically belongs to the English discourse system with critical and innovative thinking. Although there are occasional non-standard Chinglish expressions, this deficiency will be worth attention and further improvement in teaching L2 English writing in the future. This study is of great significance to the reform of teaching EFL writing, which is conducive to stimulate the critical thinking of Chinese undergraduate English L2 writers and improve their innovative consciousness.

1. Introduction

FLTRP ETIC Cup as a series of English contests including speech, reading and writing has become more and more popular. In 2021, China will embark on a new journey of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way, and a new chapter of the 14th Five Year Plan will begin. The times are full of challenges and hope. China shows the mind of an oriental power, deeply participates in global governance, and puts forward new and higher requirements for the cultivation of excellent talents. The competition of FLTRP ETIC Cup, jointly sponsored by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press and China Foreign Language and Education Research Center, and jointly organized by Beijing Foreign Research Online Digital Technology Co., Ltd. and China Foreign Language Evaluation Center, has always adhered to the mission and social responsibility of the times, adhered to lofty ideas and innovative ideas, and complied with the development trend of the times lead the reform of foreign language education and make unremitting efforts to cultivate outstanding talents needed by the country in the new era.

It includes “FLTRP ETIC Cup” National English speech, writing and reading events. It is not

only a broad stage for college students to show their style and realize themselves, but also a communication platform to reflect wisdom and innovation in the field of foreign language education. The competition aims to cultivate international talents with international vision, innovative consciousness, family and country feelings and future spirit, walk with and move forward with the new era, cast the soul, enlighten and moisten the heart for college students, guide them to deeply understand and grasp the trend of the times and national needs, pursue excellence, climb the peak of knowledge forever, act better than words, shoulder the responsibility of the times and develop in an all-round way.

The Cup brings together national excellent students to express their competitive language, present the art of communication, exchange multiple thinking, carry forward the new knowledge of the times and build an educational pattern. Based on the requirements of international talents, drawing on advanced ideas and relying on information technology, the event integrates key elements such as scholarship, speculation, expansibility and creativity into the event, so as to improve students' language, thinking, cross-cultural communication, problem-solving and other abilities, and shape the core literacy required for future development. With its authority and professionalism, the three events were selected into the “ranking list of national college students' competition” issued by the Chinese society of higher education of the Ministry of education. The results of the competition in promoting education and educating people by competition continued to be recognized by the academic community.

In the same boat we set sail together, embarking on a long voyage through winds and waves. Based on the overall situation of the national rejuvenation strategy and the unprecedented changes in the world in a century, The Cup will adhere to the original intention, cherish the “great person of the country”, grasp the general trend, dare to take responsibility and act bravely, help young students set great aspirations, understand great morality, become great talents and shoulder great responsibilities, and grow into socialist builders and successors with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor, and join hands with foreign language education experts and teachers and students in Colleges and universities across the country to jointly build a high-quality education system and cultivate wonderful chapters for the whole person, so as to make new contributions to the realization of the second Centennial goal.

2. National Writing Competition

Write an essay in response to the passage below. You should discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the passage and explain your reasons for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the author's opinion might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position. You should provide your own title and write about 800 words.

2.1 Are Human Beings More or Less Intelligent Nowadays?

Ever since human beings evolved on Earth, they have been using their intelligence to make their lives easier. They have discovered natural laws, made tools, built facilities and adapted to their environment. Inventions and discoveries have liberated people from tedious work and with the assistance of technology in this information age, this process has been ever more accelerated. Nevertheless, some argue that technological development has rendered humans lazier and ignorant. Throughout history most humans have had to do some manual work: from weaving cloth to repairing equipment. However, many people have gradually lost these skills as such work is increasingly done by machines. Artificial intelligence allows machines to perform even more intricate operations with pre-installed instructions. It is true that intelligent people are still masters

of such technology so that some individuals will use their intelligence to develop and control machines. However, the majority of people are being deprived of the necessity to think and to find solutions to complex situations on a daily basis. Human beings as a whole are becoming much less intelligent than their ancestors.

2.2 Argumentative Writing Content and Scoring Criteria

Competition content: the contestants complete an argumentative paper (about 800 words). Focus on examining the players' abilities of literature reading and understanding, comprehensive information processing, judgment and analysis, logical thinking, evaluation and discussion, and show the players' comprehensive qualities such as knowledge breadth, vision dimension and ideological depth. The scoring criteria are as following:

Table 1 Scoring criteria

Scoring criteria		
content/ideas (40%)	organizaiton/development (30%)	Language (30%)
The content of the article is relevant and rich.	Well organized and logical	The grammar is correct. The words are appropriate, appropriate and rich.c
The article is smooth and expressed clearly.	Diversified sentence patterns and correct syntactic strutere.	Correct spelling, punctuation and neat writing.

3. Assessment by the Contestant Writer

After reviewing the topic, I determined the point of view of the composition as: the development of science and technology will not make mankind stupid, but will also promote human wisdom. The full text uses three sub arguments to support this big argument.

Sub-argument 1:creation of human wisdom

The development of science and technology and mankind's great longing for it can stimulate creativity, and creativity is the symbol of human intelligence. Three examples are confirmed: WeChat, Alipay and other communication and payment platforms derive a series of convenient services such as taxi and booking. With the maturity of intelligent computing system, the field of space exploration is changing with each passing day; Energy conversion devices promote the development of new energy utilization. These examples are described in parallel and similar sentence patterns, which are used to prove that scientific and technological development stimulates human creativity and shows the charm of human wisdom.

Sub-argument 2:satisfaction of human need

With the development of science and technology, human beings can fully show their unique empathy / EQ (also a kind of human intelligence). In the example, taking medical technology as the background, high-tech means reduce the burden and pressure for doctors, while giving them more time and energy to take care of the spiritual needs of patients. The same is true in other industries.

Sub-argument 3:persuit of unknown knowlege

The development of science and technology enriches the ways of education and learning, making it more convenient to know the way. Taking the development of online education platform MOOC as an example, supplemented by the case of Wang Dakang's personal study, this paper expounds that scientific and technological progress drives the development of online education, so that more people have the opportunity to improve through self-study. Personally, I think this article is more standardized in structure, clear in logic and closely connected; The content is relatively rich and supported by rich examples. However, the disadvantage is that individual examples may not be very

representative, so they are less persuasive, which needs to be improved in the future.

4. Assessment by the Competition Judge

Strong point-1:language skills

In addition to superb language skills, such as rich vocabulary, complex and diverse sentence patterns, effective cohesive means, reasonable text layout, etc., what is more important is rigorous logic and the ideological depth of the article.

In this paper, the vocabulary is rich, and the contestants can control more advanced vocabulary, such as anachronistic, inconvertible, auspice, and flexibly switch between verb phrases, noun phrases, prepositional phrases, etc; Language ability is not only reflected in general expression, but also in the vocabulary of professional fields, such as nano, AI powered diagnosis, MOOC, etc., showing the players' outstanding knowledge and vocabulary breadth.

Strong point-2:critical thinking

The sentence structure of the article is complex and diverse. The contestants can skillfully use hierarchical noun phrases, participle phrases and various relative clauses. Use three emphases in the second paragraph it is That row ratio demonstrates with examples and has a strong ability to control sentence patterns. Parentheses, as the supplement and explanation of the main content of sentences, are a major element to reflect language skills in writing. A remarkable feature of this paper is the frequent and effective use of parentheses, such as coupled with our years to push ahead with it, originally for communication and mobile payment, etc.

In terms of cohesive devices between paragraphs, in addition to external connections such as to begin with, in addition to, apart from, they are more internal connections, such as verb phrases used to express induced human creativity, enabled the first commercial spacecraft, triggered scientists and researchers' new ideas, which are equivalent to a semantic field.

Strong point-3:creativity competence

The whole article adopts the “total sub total” structure. At the beginning, it directly expresses the viewpoint tendency in the general statement, expounds the advantages of science and technology over man-made, and then introduces the thesis statement of this paper - “technology blessing not only does not hinder the thought of intelligence, but stimulates the development of human intelligence”. The structure is clear and the viewpoint is clear. The middle three paragraphs are the main paragraphs, which are discussed from the aspects of technology stimulating people's creativity, promoting people's full emotional development and providing convenient means for professional knowledge accumulation. The main paragraph also adopts the “total sub total” structure. The topic sentence puts forward sub arguments, the main body of the paragraph demonstrates, and the summary sentence echoes the topic sentence. The final paragraph aims to summarize the full text and respond to the main idea. Logical thinking is complete and smooth.

5. Improvement

However, this paper also has some areas to be improved. First, the sentence is too long, resulting in grammatical errors (such as the issue that wherether). Secondly, the main content of the third main paragraph is that technological progress makes it easier for people to obtain professional knowledge, and detailed cases are cited for explanation. However, the content of this paragraph is consistent with the main sentence of the full text, the burgeoning of technology supported devices and machines, far from reversing or sapping our nimble minds, Serves as a catalyst for our intelligence are weakly related. In addition, the perspective that mankind is growing to be implicit in today's technical age, in view of the above analysis, provides groundless most of the time and then requires no justification for our support. This paper will be a more wonderful work if it can pay

more attention to the position or examples of the subject materials and pay attention to the close relationship between views and examples. However, it is valuable that the contestants can conceive an article with clear views, reasonable structure, clear ideas and rich examples in a short time.

6. Conclusion

The paper focuses on the central topic of critical and innovative thinking in the English writing of Chinese undergraduate students. The two dimensions of critical-thinking and problem-solving competence are analysed from the evaluations of student authors and the teacher judges. The writing data analysed are from corpus based on 2012 FLTRP ETIC CUP writing. The theme topic of the writing competition is what kind of lifestyle changes have been brought to people by human progress and technology and what enlightenment it has for the future. Around this theme, it can be seen that the college student author can not only explain and understand the central idea deeply, but also analyze its influence from a critical thinking perspective. In the argumentation three new innovative ideas are put forward. It can be seen from the analysis that the English argumentative writing of Chinese undergraduates basically belongs to the English discourse system with critical and innovative thinking. Although there are occasional non-standard Chinglish expressions, this deficiency will be worth attention and further improvement in teaching L2 English writing in the future. This study is of great significance to the reform of teaching EFL writing, which is conducive to stimulate the critical thinking of Chinese undergraduate English L2 writers and improve their innovative consciousness.

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