New English Teaching of Network Era

Lisha XIE

School of Foreign Languages, Leshan Normal University, Leshan, Sichuan, 614000, China

Keywords: Network Era, English Language, Teaching.

Abstract: Traditional teaching of English language has some drawbacks hindering student's personality and thinking. The development of network brings more opportunity for English teaching, changing the traditional methods of English teaching. In the Network Era, English teaching offers students authentic learning environment and opportunities to practice. Students can learn through network independently and communicate with foreigners to gain a variety of English language resources. However, the network also has adverse effect on English teaching: failing to make good use of network tools, English teachers become overly dependent on the network in teaching; advantages of the network have not been fully exploited. Network Era puts forward higher requirements on English teaching, so teaching methods and content, as well as ideas of teachers need to be further transformed.

1 INTRODUCTION

With the development of network, multimedia technology has provided a convenient condition for education. In Network Era, teaching and learning methods of English have been changed, bringing opportunities and adverse factors to English teaching. Traditional methods of English teaching have many problems, including the obsolete teaching content, monotonous teaching method, as well as students' passive role and low interest in learning. English teachers and students are equal in the Network Era; students become more active to initiatively manage their own learning progress, with interactions with teachers and computers. However, network also puts forward higher requirements on English teaching, because English educators and teachers need to learn how to fully use it.

2 DISADVANTAGES OF TRADITIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

During the decades of reform and opening up, English language teaching in China has made a lot of achievements. At any stage of socialism development, the progress in English language teaching was stimulating Chinese economy and culture. In the 1980s, the purpose of English language teaching was to improve students' reading skills. During social progress, China has become closer to various organizations in the world, holding more and more international events, which put forward higher requirements for English language teaching. Currently, English language teaching needs to train students' capacity in listening, speaking, writing, reading, etc., thus letting them keep up with the times. Traditional English language teaching mainly focus on strengthening students' response, and most English teachers emphasize the method and enhancement of stimulation, while neglecting student's own reaction. Therefore, students lose the active position in learning English, becoming the object of teachers' stimulation.

Traditional English teaching was not conducive to students' personal growth. And English teachers were responsible for a whole class of students, so they often failed to take care of every student's experience and meet different learning needs in teaching process. The difference between students led to uneven development. Students' English language knowledge and ability were trained mainly by English teachers, so students lacked independent thinking and learning ability, not to mention creative thinking and innovation capability. Instructional materials for traditional English teaching were almost the same, because schools usually used the same teaching material for many years in order to maintain consistency. At first, some English teaching materials were fresh. But they will lag behind the development of the times a few decades later, becoming obsolete English language lacking practicability in real life. Most students spoke

Chinese in learning process of English language; teachers also taught English in Chinese and only spoke English when asking questions. Some teachers taught English using Chinese interpretation. Students rarely spoke English in learning and communication with others. The common use of recorder and VCR in the English teaching has constantly enriched teaching methods of English language. However, students still passively listen to the tape recorder and watch the image in VCR, with no initiative and mastery on their learning.

3 BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF NETWORK ON ENGLISH TEACHING

3.1 Equal Status of Teachers and Students

Nowadays, computer is one of the basic skills that people need to learn, and English has become an essential language for everyone. Only by mastering two powerful tools, English and computer, can people achieve better performance at work. In 21th Century, our society is in the rapid development of the network era. The network has developed into a new level, and network media is playing an important role in people's learning, life and work. People learn and work through the network. Besides, network can achieve people's entertainment and communication with others.

In the Network Era, network has become a very important tool with many advantages. It has greatly changed the ways of English teaching. Getting rid of traditional modes of teaching, network has brought a more advantageous teaching model, transforming the English teaching situation. Students are no longer passive, and teachers will be more equal to students. In the Network Era, online education also becomes popular. Online education is utilized in English training schools, English courses, overseas training courses and postgraduate classes, enabling students to learn English through computer. Online learning environment contains many data and information, as well as various helpful software and communication platforms. This teaching model has more advantages than traditional one: it can gather more information in the form of text, sound and video, and information is fast updated and timely exchanged.

3.2 Free Forms of English Teaching

Through the networks, English teaching breaks

through the limitations of time with more free space and greater openness. In the Network Era, there are more and more abundant resources and information for English teaching. We can acquire resources such as English songs, MTV, movies, interview shows and news programs in all countries and ages. Then, students will truly know about veritable spoken English without going to foreign countries. On the computer, there are many libraries offering electronic document for browsing and downloading. Teachers and students can browse a variety of English information from home and abroad, and download to mobile device for learning when necessary.

3.3 More Diverse Learning Methods

Network provides a vast ocean of information for English teaching, and teachers and students can enjoy it. In the Network Era, English teaching has become more convenient. Students obtain English resources in the forms of text, sound and video through the computer, thereby practicing listening and speaking in simulated English environment. Computer also provides timely feedback for students' learning, with smaller chance of error than teachers. Thus, online learning is faster and more accurate. Instead of holding a thick Oxford dictionary, students can learn massive English vocabulary on computer. Computer teaches students correct pronunciation and spelling of words, as well as their recorded mistakes, so they can recall these mistakes at any time and place. For each word, students can learn its Chinese meaning, English meaning, root, memory techniques, pronunciation, phrases, synonyms, cognates and illustrative sentence, thus having comprehensive and in-depth understanding on it. Besides, they also can learn words through a variety of word games, which makes learning a fun process and improve learning effect. In the multimedia language classroom, English teachers can have dialogue with each student.

3.4 More Networking Opportunities and Faster Update and Dissemination of Information

Network provides students with more opportunities to communicate with foreigners: there are various foreign chatrooms on the Internet, where students can communicate with foreigners in text or e-mail. Through the computer, students can also have verbal and video communication with people from all over the world, which are more real and strengthen the interaction in English language communication. In

learning English, they used to record the words and phrases in a carry-on notebook. However, this learning method has been changed with time: students can have situational dialogue on the computer, learning words through English presentations.

In the Network Era, new vocabulary of English teaching is spreading fast in more fields. Compared with the fast update of information, the content of English teaching book has fell behind the times. Although students have enough knowledge to pass examinations, the knowledge soon becomes obsolete when they enter the society. To make progress, we need to spend time to learn or go to school for further study. But this will cost a lot of time, and even delay our daily work. Through a computer, people can learn new knowledge of English language at any time and place. There is no difference between the English teaching on the network and classroom teaching, and the network has more fresh English language knowledge.

3.5 Understanding English Culture

In the Network Era, English teaching has become more diverse. Language and culture are inextricably linked, and in order to learn the English language, you need to learn English culture. English teaching involves English and a number of languages used in English speaking countries. American English and British English have some differences in the pronunciation of certain words, spelling, language and customs, so we need to first understand their culture in order to understand these differences. Language is a part of culture. If English teaching only teaches students vocabulary and grammar rules, rather than letting them know English culture, then they cannot really use English. Besides, the lack of understanding of English culture will lead to a lot of misunderstandings in the use of English, thus hindering communication in English. Network Era has liberated the traditional education, and teachers need to diversify the teaching content, such as text, images, sound and video. Thus, students will have a real opportunity to speak English in network environment, understanding the real life of English speakers. Network makes language on the books vivid by connecting knowledge to practices, enriching the forms of English teaching.

4 ADVERSE EFFECTS OF NETWORK

New things often have a tough beginning. In the Network Era, English teaching will also inevitably encounter some problems. Although traditional English teaching is obsolete, its thinking and methods of education have become more and more mature. Network also has a negative impact on English teaching. For example, software for network English teaching is far from enough. In addition to a large number of exercises and mini-games, there is none better software been developed. With complex technology, network English teaching is not simple as other teaching techniques. Knowing nothing about network technology, many experienced teachers have been gradually eliminated by the times. With skilled network technology, young teachers are not enough in English language knowledge. Learning network technology needs a lot of time. Some English teachers have learned the basic skills, but they have not utilized network tools in English teaching. Most teachers can only use a projector to display courseware and language lab for listening, neglecting other advantages of network. In fact, the network will make much more contribution to English teaching than now, but most English teachers can only use the basic function of the network, failing to use all the advantages of the network.

5 REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGLISH TEACHING IN NETWORK ERA

In the Network Era, a variety of resources can be combined together to provide convenience for today's teaching. The form of English teaching has developed from text to multimedia courseware with text and images, and with the development of the network, video, animation and other forms will be combined to make a diversified English teaching. Traditional English teaching is a one-way learning: students just browse and view. But in the Network Era, this mode will be gradually transformed into a two-way teaching. Network Era puts forward higher requirements for English teachers. English teachers need to reasonably design their teaching in many aspects including teaching purpose, content and evaluation. The goal is to train students' comprehensive capacity, especially for communication skills. In Network Era, students are more active to study independently, managing their own learning progress according to their learning ability. Owing to the network, English teaching has broken the boundaries of school, providing a life-long learning platform for the whole society.

6 CONCLUSIONS

In the Network Era, great changes have occurred in English teaching. Network provides abundant teaching resources for English teaching and a more realistic learning environment for students, thus enhancing their interest in learning English language. Expanding students' horizons, network can increase their chances of exposure to English and practicing English, thus improving English communication skills. With the network, English teachers can enrich their teaching content and update teaching methods, improving interaction with students and teaching effectiveness. But there exist some shortcomings in Network English teaching: English teachers have not made good use of this powerful tool.

REFERENCES

Rusu, 2006 (42) 81-82. Development of English teaching in the network environment, Nanjing Radio and Television University.

Ma Jiqing, 2014 (07): 152-153. Requirements for university English learning environment in the network era, *Campus English*.

Jiang Yangjian, 2004 (24): 26-27. Promotion and development of English teaching in the network era. *Education and Occupation*.

Zhang Xuemei, 2006 (9): 33-42. Teaching of English language in network era. *Shaanxi Education*.