An Exploration of Practical English Translation Teaching Methods in Colleges and Universities

Huizhao Ren*, Xiaoyan Guo

Xi’an Fanyi University, Xi’an, Shaanxi Province, China.

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Corresponding author: Huizhao Ren, Xi’an Fanyi University, Xi’an, Shaanxi Province, China.

Abstract

With the rapid development of the global economy, the cultural, technological, material, economic and other aspects of countries are accelerating integration, forming the development of global integration. Language is the basic tool of all communication, so language translation has an important social and economic status. The cultivation of English translation skills is of great practical significance to the modernization of socialism with Chinese characteristics. English translation courses in various colleges and universities not only cultivate many English translation talents in our country, but also provide a training ground for students to improve their English translation ability and practical skills. The exploration of teaching methods is particularly important. This paper is mainly divided into five parts: the first part expounds the importance of practical English translation; the second part discusses the current situation of Chinese practical English translation; the third part analyzes the teaching objectives and characteristics of practical English translation in the teaching application; the fourth part discusses the teaching methods of practical English translation; the fifth part summarizes the paper. Finally, we hope to promote the development of practical English translation and the improvement of teaching practice.

Keywords

Practical English, Translation, Method of teaching

English translation itself is a practical skill, which lays a foundation for students to apply in their future jobs. With the continuous implementation of the training plan of practical talents at the present stage, the universities at all levels pay more attention to the improvement of students' practical ability and the improvement of their comprehensive literacy in the process of personnel training and construction. Practical English translation teaching is an important way to improve students' listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation ability in the process of English translation learning, which lays a foundation for their future work and application. However, in the actual teaching process, there are many problems hindering the improvement of practical English translation teaching effect, and not conducive to improving students' practical application ability. Analyzing the existing problems, researching and implementing strategies can not only improve the teaching effect, but also, more importantly, cultivate English translation talents for the communication activities between our country and various countries in the world. Promoting the enhancement of our country's comprehensive strength (Yang Wenge & Zhao Xue, 2021).

1. The importance of practical English translation training

In the world, applied language classes generally implement competency-based teaching methods, and CBE and DACUM curriculum methods in North America are more typical. This method focuses on competency standards, that is, detailed job task analysis of vocational posts, corresponding to the development of special ability related courses, and
practical training. The cultivation of the comprehensive application ability of applied language students must be completed through practical training, which has been concerned by people with insight and call for it to be included in the regular teaching of business education as soon as possible. Practical English style includes the categories of science and technology, economics, new use, law, tourism, advertising, political theory and so on. Its translation itself is highly practical. Without a lot of practical practice and training, it would lose its due practical significance in theory. On the contrary, only through a large number of detailed writing and interpretation practice, in the process of training to find and help solve the problems of students, at the same time, add some methods and skills necessary to do a good job in practical English translation. For example, in translation, the skills of sentence breaking, the alternations between active voice and passive voice, the conversion of personal and impersonal subjects, the translation of additive words, the translation of political words, the conversion of parts of speech, the translation of transpose sentences, the translation skills of sequential translation, welding skills, the skills of sentence splitting, the skills of sentence combining, the skills of delay translation, the skills of anticipation and so on, can help English majors master practical English translation skills and methods more quickly. Improve the translation ability, so as to enhance their competitiveness in employment, and really adapt to the social and market demand for translation talents (Luo Yan, 2019).

2. Current situation of practical English translation research

Since 1978, Chinese translation researchers have published more than 1000 papers on practical English translation. From this data, we can see that since the reform and opening up, practical English translation of our country has developed very rapidly, and the translation achievements are also very remarkable. However, if you read the title and content of the published articles carefully, it is so easy to find that the research of practical English translation is still mostly at a shallow level, and it is difficult to make some theoretical achievements. Taking the translation of public signs as an example, there are a lot of researches on the translation error correction level, but there are few researches that can make a macro analysis and summary on it and then put forward some guiding principles. Representative scholars include He Xueyun, Niu Xinshe, Liu Fagong and Xu Beijia. They all believe that the translation of public signs should follow the reader-centered principle and focus on the best reading experience of readers. The translation of public signs should be concise and easy to understand, which is very different from the traditional translation, which pays more attention to the original text. Modern translation should pay more attention to readers' emotional experience. Later, on the basis of summarizing the research achievements of many scholars, Pi Demin further proposed that translation should not only adhere to the text type to determine the translation strategy, but also according to the context of the translation principle. Since then, the study of practical English translation has become more systematic. There are more and more scholars studying practical translation, and the related translation theory also gradually becomes mature. With the continuous improvement of people's living standards, the demand for translation of English reading materials is also increasing, including the re-translation of foreign literary classics and the translation of foreign literary materials. With the arrival of the 20th century, all kinds of foreign film and television drama began to become popular in China. It is also necessary for more specialized translation talents to carry out corresponding statement translation. This requires that our practical English translation theory can keep pace with The Times and achieve the basic requirements of translation in various fields. The theoretical review in the past has also played a certain guiding role in the translation work. Under the new situation, practical English translators have been put forward with the basic requirements of high literary literacy and more rigorous article structure, which requires all practical English translators to carry out rigorous deliberation according to the structure of articles or works and determine the content of translation. To ensure that the quality of translation can meet the requirements of translation (Gao Wei & Fan Bo, 2020).

3. Teaching objectives and characteristics of practical English translation in teaching application

3.1 Analysis of practical English translation teaching objectives

Practical English translation teaching is mainly embodied in two aspects: theory and practical application. Listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation are the basic teaching contents. Improving students' English translation ability is an important teaching goal in the implementation of the new curriculum standards in recent years. The major of English translation itself is a practical discipline, so in the actual teaching process, it is necessary to carry out various teaching activities around the main teaching goal of improving students' translation ability. With the current development trend of the world economic globalization, the applied field of English translation is increasing. The training and reserve of English talents has become the priority of English translation teaching. Therefore, combining social development, national construction and the global economic situation to implement targeted talents training is also one of the goals of
using English translation teaching. At present, there are fewer colleges and universities offering English translation majors, and fewer non-English translation professionals engaged in English translation after graduation, which makes the gap of practical English translation talents unable to be effectively filled. Based on the analysis of the above content, it is of great practical significance to improve the practical application of practical English translation in teaching, both for students’ own development and for talents’ needs in the process of social construction.

3.2 Characteristics of practical English translation teaching

English translation is an important language tool in the communication process of countries around the world. Therefore, in the process of practical English translation teaching, we should pay full attention to this objective demand and characteristics, and carry out various forms of teaching activities and research activities by constantly expanding teaching information channels and resources, so as to equip students with English translation ability. In the implementation of specific teaching activities, it is necessary to train students’ English translation skills as the starting point, combined with the current situation of social development of innovative teaching mode. In English translation teaching activities, it is necessary to deeply analyze the influences of different cultural backgrounds, different personas, different fields and different ways of thinking on translation activities, and master translation skills under different circumstances to better improve translation ability and efficiency. At the same time, the practical application of English translation teaching should be deeply infused with the idea of moral education, pay attention to the cultivation of students’ translation attitude and translation literacy, and enhance the scientific rigor and conscientiousness of English translation activities based on the basic requirements of faithfulness, elegance and accuracy, so as to improve the quality of English translation. Practical application teaching activities should pay full attention to the analysis of the characteristics of practical English translation activities, to find the correct positioning, can effectively improve the quality and level of teaching.

4. Exploration of practical English translation teaching methods

4.1 Combine social development to enrich teaching materials

Practical English translation teaching should aim at cultivating students' English translation literacy, expand and update corresponding textbook contents based on the characteristics of different majors, and update teaching contents by constantly improving teaching objectives, combining with the current situation of social development and the demand direction of talents in various industries, so as to introduce more content in line with the needs of students, social development and the target needs of industrial talents. Enriching practical English translation teaching content is mainly carried out from the following aspects: First, combining students’ interests and their own needs. Modern students have more independent thoughts and personalized needs, the teaching content to choose social hot topics and other methods, can effectively enhance students' interest in learning. At the same time, based on the characteristics of each specialty, the corresponding application ability should be cultivated. For example, literary translation tends to be emotional expression, and commercial or scientific translation needs to be rigorous and serious. Second, combine the needs of our social development. According to the current situation of talent gap, colleges and universities carry out corresponding training of practical talents, so as to make teaching content closer to students' future work needs. Third, make full use of modern information technology resources. The expansion of teaching content, especially the choice of practical word problems, can make the teaching content more practical application value by using the electronic library and Internet information website in colleges and universities.

4.2 Innovative teaching methods to enliven the classroom atmosphere

The use of innovative teaching methods can better enhance students' interest in learning, improve the teaching effect, reduce the difficulty of teaching. Innovative teaching methods mainly have the following aspects, one is situational teaching. Creating scenes similar to the contents and scenes of translation can make students have a better sense of inclusion and have a deeper understanding of the background of the translated works. It also enables students to act as different roles in the works and perform corresponding translation behaviors, so that students can understand the changes in translation behaviors brought by role change. Students can also be organized to watch English movies and TV plays to promote the improvement of teaching effect. The second is group discussion teaching. Through the form of group discussion, the translated works can be understood and applied from multiple perspectives. Meanwhile, students can expand their cognition by observing the translation behaviors of other students, so that students can improve their application ability. It is also possible to carry out contests and other forms of activities to take the same work as the title of the competition, analyze the differences between the translation results of each group from different visions, find out
their own shortcomings, and improve the application ability. The third is the explanation and demonstration of important and difficult knowledge. According to the difficulty of the teaching content, teachers should divide the relevant important and difficult knowledge parts, strengthen the explanation and application of the corresponding knowledge, and teach students translation skills and application skills.

4.3 Close integration of theory and practice teaching

Practical English translation itself is a skill-based discipline. Therefore, in the teaching process, we should pay full attention to practical application teaching, and demonstrate theoretical knowledge in the form of practical application, which can reduce the abstractness of theoretical knowledge and promote the understanding and absorption of students. The combination of theoretical and practical teaching is mainly reflected in the teaching form. For example, the teaching of theoretical knowledge and translation skills can be carried out by choosing the corresponding translation method to make the abstract theoretical knowledge more practical. In addition, the micro-class teaching method can be used to carry out flipped classroom teaching, which can put the learning of basic knowledge into the micro-class, save the time occupied by the classroom teaching and increase the teaching hours of practical application. Teachers can also assign the background search of relevant works and the query of the meaning of new words as the content of the micro-class homework, which can not only give full play to the initiative of students but also effectively improve the application ability of students.

4.4 Attach importance to the influence of cultural background differences in translation

The traditional teaching process is characterized by the slow improvement of students’ English translation ability and the high error rate in the process of translating works. The main reason is the lack of analysis and research on the background of works. The differences between Chinese and Western cultures, social backgrounds, and the features of works can lead to inaccuracies and even errors in the translation process. In the process of practical teaching, it is not only necessary to strengthen the cultivation of translation skills, but also to fully lead students to analyze the background and characteristics of the works, so that students can fully grasp the translation focus and strive to improve the translation effect. For example, in the translation of western mythic stories, it is necessary to have a deeper understanding and grasp of the origin of mythic figures, so as to avoid mistakes in the translation process, especially in the translation of character titles, historical allusions and other aspects. It is also necessary to pay attention to the analysis and research of the development characteristics of Western culture itself. The characters and language thinking in classical literary works are significantly different from the modern ones, so the translation of works of different ages should be as accurate and original as possible.

4.5 Build innovative teaching model to improve practical effect

For students with different learning abilities and foundations, innovative teaching mode should be implemented to fully reflect the characteristics of targeted teaching, and stratified teaching mode can be adopted. That is, in the aspect of practical application teaching, teachers set different teaching objectives and teaching contents according to students' own learning ability and basic mastery degree, which fully reflects the respect for students. Stratified teaching is usually applied to the study of freshmen in a semester. A semester of targeted teaching can improve students' basic level and translation ability as a whole. Through scientific and reasonable hierarchical teaching, different teaching mode is implemented to truly teach students according to their aptitude, ensure that students at different levels receive appropriate education and realize the improvement of their own ability. At the same time, during the teaching process, teachers can also use QQ, wechat and campus network to establish more contact and communication with students, promote the development of harmonious teacher-student relationship, and give students the help and guidance they need, which can improve the effect of practical application of teaching.

5. Conclusion

Through analysis and research, it can be seen that the teaching content is combined with the current situation of social development, national demand for talents and students' own characteristics, and updated into the teaching content with more practical application value. The use of innovative teaching methods can not only improve students' practical application ability, but also enhance students' interest in learning and play the principal position of students. The teaching method combining theory and practice can improve the role of theory in practice through the combination of teaching content and methods. Attaching importance to the analysis of the cultural and social background of the works can make the translation behavior more accurate, innovate the application of teaching model, achieve individualized teach-
ing, make the individual students fully respected, and improve the overall teaching effect.

References


