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A Comparative Study on the Similarities and Differences of English Teaching in the Context of British and American Culture

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Abstract: This paper analyzes the similarities and differences in English teaching under the background of British and American culture from three aspects: teaching mode, teaching material content and teaching methods. Based on research, there are obvious differences between British and American cultures, but there are many common points in oral English communication and comprehensive language ability training. At the same time, different cultural backgrounds also make their English classroom teaching methods and grammar rules have obvious differences. Based on this research, oral English can provide more references for English teaching innovation and teaching quality improvement.

Keywords: English teaching; British and American culture; Commonality; otherness

Introduction

With the development of economic globalization, English, as an international language, plays an increasingly important role in international communication. At this time, English teaching was widely promoted. From the actual situation, English teaching under different cultural backgrounds will have differences in teaching mode, teaching materials, teaching methods and so on. At present, the United Kingdom and the United States are the most representative countries in the development of English teaching, and their cultural backgrounds are different. Based on this, exploring the commonalities and differences in English teaching under the background of British and American culture will play a positive role in promoting the innovation and reform of English teaching.

1. A comparative analysis of English teaching models in the context of British and American culture

1.1 Overview of teaching mode

The so-called teaching mode refers to the overall framework and organizational mode of the teaching methods and strategies that teachers choose and use in the teaching process. In English teaching, teaching mode plays a guiding role, which will directly affect students' learning interest and learning efficiency. At present, there are various types of common teaching modes, such as traditional teaching mode and interactive teaching mode, which play an important role in improving teaching quality^[1].

1.2 Characteristics of British English teaching mode

Under the background of British culture, the typical characteristics of English teaching mode are interaction and practice. Specifically, when teaching, teachers will encourage and guide students to actively participate in classroom interaction, interact with teachers and ask questions, and support students to practice based on their own knowledge. At the same time, for teachers, more heuristic teaching methods are used to complete teaching tasks, and emphasis is placed on cultivating students' comprehensive language ability in class. Starting from the four aspects of "listening, speaking, reading and writing", teachers will scientifically set questions and organize classroom activities to cultivate students' creativity and critical thinking^[2].

1.3 Characteristics of American English teaching mode

Under the background of American culture, the typical characteristic of English teaching model is to pay more attention to the development of students' personality and guide students to participate in it. In the actual teaching process, teachers are more willing to students to actively participate in class activities, boldly express their opinions, views or raise questions. In teaching, most teachers introduce exploratory learning and problem solving teaching models, and guide students to participate in practice by setting teaching situations. At the same time, American English teaching focuses on cultivating students' critical thinking and creativity, and strives to meet the learning needs of all stu-

dents through personalized teaching, respecting and understanding the differences of different student groups.

1.4 Overview of commonalities and differences

Through a comparative analysis of English teaching models under the background of British and American culture, we can see that there are commonalities in oral communication and comprehensive ability cultivation. In terms of differences, the UK focuses on classroom discussion and interaction to encourage students to develop innovative thinking. The United States pays more attention to problem solving and practical exploration, and emphasizes the cultivation of students' independent learning ability.

2. A comparative analysis of English teaching materials in the context of British and American culture

2.1 Overview of the development of teaching materials

The development of English teaching materials can be traced back to the early 20th century. The original textbooks focused on grammar, with an emphasis on developing students' knowledge of grammar. Later, with the improvement of educational concepts and the continuous development of education, teaching materials gradually developed in a more comprehensive and communicative direction. For example, in the middle of the 20th century, teaching materials showed the characteristics of focusing on function, emphasizing practical English and cultivating communicative competence. In the 21st century, the concept of quality education and personalized training has become increasingly popular, and the teaching materials have also changed, and electronic teaching materials and network teaching materials have been widely used. In terms of content, it presents the characteristics of diversification, individuation and practicality.

2.2 Features of British English teaching materials

The content of British English textbooks mainly presents the characteristics of practicality and diversity. Specifically, the content of the textbook focuses on cultural education, and helps students to understand British history and culture by introducing British history and geography. At the same time, the content of the textbook is obviously practical. By cultivating students' "listening, speaking, reading and writing" skills, they can cultivate their cross-cultural communication ability and practical application of knowledge. And pay attention to practical scene training in daily teaching. In addition, British English textbooks are rich in content, including not only artistic works and literary works, but also modern society and environment^[3].

2.3 Features of American English teaching materials

The content of American English textbooks mainly presents the characteristics of practicability, cultural diversity and personality development. Specifically, the teaching materials pay attention to practical value, and most of the content focuses on cultivating students' listening, speaking, reading and writing ability and daily communication ability. At the same time, the content of the textbooks is rich and diverse, covering American history, society, art, music and other aspects of the content, enough to assist students to understand American culture in many aspects. In addition, American textbooks focus on personalized development. Many textbook contents provide students with independent learning space and divergent thinking gaps, allowing students to learn based on personality and interests. And the content coverage is more extensive, enough to meet the personalized learning needs of most students.

2.4 Overview of commonalities and differences

From the perspective of commonality, under the two cultural backgrounds, English teaching materials pay attention to the practicability and the cultivation of "listening, speaking, reading and writing" ability. At the same time, both focus on guiding students to pay attention to cultural education. From the perspective of differences, British textbooks emphasize UK-centered cultural education, while American textbooks pay more attention to the presentation of cultural diversity. At the same time, British textbooks focus on cultivating students' creative thinking and personal ability development, while American textbooks focus on cultivating cross-cultural communication ability and knowledge practical application ability.

3. Comparative analysis of English teaching methods in the context of British and American culture

3.1 Overview of teaching methods

Teaching method refers to the strategies and steps that teachers apply in the classroom to achieve teaching goals. With the continuous development of education, teaching methods are diversified. Common teaching methods, such as discussion method, cooperative inquiry method and case analysis method, provide important support for the improvement of teaching quality.

3.2 Characteristics of British English teaching methods

Under the background of British culture, English teaching methods focus on interactive and heuristic teaching. Specifically, teachers

encourage students to speak and interact actively in class. At this time, the teacher not only plays the role of knowledge imparting, but also acts as a guide to encourage students to think independently through questioning and expression. At the same time, the British English teaching method emphasizes practice and communication training in real situations, which focuses on cultivating students' knowledge and practical English ability. In addition, with the development of modern technology, the Internet, artificial intelligence and other technical means will also be applied to propose more effective teaching methods, mobilize students' learning enthusiasm, and cultivate students' critical thinking and comprehensive language ability ^[4].

3.3 Characteristics of American English teaching methods

The characteristics of American English teaching methods are the cultivation of practical ability and individualized development. Specifically, during teaching, teachers will set up real situations to guide students to carry out actual communication and training, so as to exercise their knowledge English ability. For example, through group role play and other ways, organize students' independent exploration and practical training. At the same time, American English teaching methods focus on helping students develop individually. By cultivating students' creative thinking and independent learning ability, we can promote their all-round development. In addition, a variety of teaching resources and advanced technological means are gradually integrated into the teaching methods, such as electronic textbooks, network resources, etc., which provide more diversified support for students.

3.4 Overview of commonalities and differences

Based on the above analysis, under the two cultural backgrounds, there are commonalities in the teaching methods of emphasizing interaction and practice, and emphasizing students' ability training and individualized training. At the same time, there are also differences between the two. For example, British English teaching focuses on ability cultivation through guidance and interaction, while American English teaching focuses on practice and personality development, that is, cultivating students' ability through practical application exercise and personalized learning mode. Meanwhile, British teaching methods focus on cultural education and generally integrate culture into teaching content, while American teaching focuses on cultivating cross-cultural awareness and guiding students to adapt to multicultural contexts.

4. Conclusion

In summary, based on the cultural background of the United States and the United Kingdom, this paper analyzes in detail the similarities and differences in the teaching mode, textbook content and teaching methods of English teaching under the two different cultural conditions. Through systematic analysis, the advantages and characteristics of the teaching mode under the two cultures can be more deeply understood, and then English teachers can carry out innovation and optimization in daily teaching, and provide more references for teaching quality.

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