Strategies for Constructing Smart Teaching Model of College English in the Context of New Liberal Arts

Yingying Cui[*]

The Tourism College of Changchun University, Changchun, 130607, China
[*]Corresponding author: cyy@tccu.edu.cn

Abstract: *This article aims to explore the construction strategies of college English smart teaching models under the background of the new liberal arts. It first introduces the concept of new liberal arts education and its impact on college English teaching, then analyzes the connotation and characteristics of smart teaching models, and finally proposes strategies for constructing smart teaching models, discussing possible challenges and countermeasures for the implementation of these strategies.*

Keywords: *New Liberal Arts; College English; smart teaching; Teaching Models; Construction Strategies*

Introduction

The arrival of the new liberal arts era brings new requirements and challenges to contemporary college English teaching. The new liberal arts era emphasizes the integration of interdisciplinary knowledge, the cultivation of critical thinking and innovative abilities, which requires corresponding adjustments and innovations in the college English teaching model. Therefore, exploring the construction strategies of college English smart teaching models under the new liberal arts context is of significant importance for improving teaching effectiveness and promoting the comprehensive development of students. Smart teaching models can better adapt to the educational philosophy of the new liberal arts and meet the needs of current educational reforms. The research on smart teaching models by educators is gradually deepening, especially under the context of the new liberal arts educational philosophy, how to construct effective smart teaching models will be the focus of attention for educators and front-line teachers.

1. The impact of the new liberal arts era on university English teaching

1.1 Overview of the New Liberal Arts Era

With the rapid development of technology in the 21st century, we have entered a new era—the new liberal arts. This era is supported by cutting-edge technologies such as information technology, artificial intelligence, and big data analysis, which have driven profound changes in the methods and content of humanities research. The New Humanities is no longer limited to traditional disciplines such as literature, history, and philosophy but is integrated and fused with natural sciences, engineering and technology, and social sciences, forming a diverse, open, and innovative knowledge system.

The New Humanities emphasizes interdisciplinary integration and innovation, advocating that humanities researchers acquire certain scientific and technological knowledge, while also encouraging technology workers to understand the theories and methods of the humanities and social sciences. In the new liberal arts, humanities research is no longer limited to textual interpretation and theoretical speculation but explores social phenomena more deeply and accurately through data analysis, model building, experimental simulation, and other means.

Interdisciplinary Integration: The New Humanities advocates interdisciplinary research, breaking down traditional disciplinary barriers and promoting knowledge exchange and integration between different disciplines.

Technology-Driven: Research methods in the new liberal arts rely more on modern technological means, such as big data analysis, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality.

Empirical Research: The New Humanities focuses on empirical research, revealing the laws and mechanisms behind social phenomena through the collection and analysis of large amounts of data.

Application-Oriented: The New Humanities pays attention to practical social issues, committed to transforming research results into solutions and strategies for real-world problems.[1]

The fields covered by the New Humanities are very extensive, including but not limited to the following aspects:

Digital Humanities: Using digital technology to organize, analyze, and present documents and materials in fields such as literature, history, and art.

Artificial Intelligence and Ethics: Researching the impact of the development of artificial intelligence technology on social ethics, law, culture, and other aspects.

Social Network Analysis: Using methods such as graph theory and network analysis to study the structure, evolution, and functions of social relationship networks.

Quantitative Historical Research: With the help of statistics, econometrics, and other methods, quantitatively analyzing historical events, figures, and phenomena.

The new liberal arts brings unprecedented opportunities to humanities research, but it also faces many challenges. On the one hand, the introduction of technological means provides more powerful tools for humanities research, helping to reveal the deeper laws behind social phenomena. On the other hand, New Humanities researchers need to continuously learn and master new scientific and technological knowledge to meet the needs of the times. In addition, the complexity of interdisciplinary research also poses higher requirements for researchers' knowledge structure and way of thinking.

In summary, the new liberal arts is an era full of challenges and opportunities. In this era, humanities research will become more diversified, scientific, and practical, providing deeper and more comprehensive intellectual support for the development of human society.

1.2 The Challenges and Opportunities of College English Teaching in the New Liberal Arts Era

The new liberal arts era poses new challenges to college English teaching, but also brings unprecedented opportunities. The challenges are mainly reflected in the need for innovation and adjustment in teaching content, teaching methods, teaching resources, and teaching evaluation. For example, teaching content needs to pay more attention to the integration of interdisciplinary knowledge, teaching methods need to be more diversified and personalized, teaching resources need to be digitized and intelligentized, and teaching evaluation needs to be more dynamic and comprehensive. The opportunity lies in the fact that the smart teaching model can better adapt to the concept of new liberal arts education, meet the needs of current educational reforms, and promote the comprehensive development of students.[2]

Under the background of new liberal arts, the construction strategies of college English teaching models should focus on the following aspects:

Innovation and integration of teaching content: Combining the characteristics of new liberal arts, integrate interdisciplinary knowledge into English teaching, and design teaching content that conforms to the laws of language learning and can stimulate students' interest in interdisciplinary learning.

Diversification and personalization of teaching methods: Adopt project-based learning, flipped classrooms, cooperative learning, and other teaching methods to meet the learning needs of different students and promote the cultivation of students' active learning and critical thinking skills.

Digitization and intelligence of teaching resources: Utilize modern information technology, such as online learning platforms, virtual reality, and AI-assisted teaching tools, to enrich teaching resources and improve teaching efficiency and quality.

Dynamic and comprehensive teaching evaluation: Establish a diversified evaluation system that not only evaluates students' mastery of language knowledge but also assesses students' interdisciplinary abilities, innovative thinking, and practical abilities.

Through the implementation of these strategies, a college English smart teaching model adapted to the new liberal arts background can be constructed, providing students with a more comprehensive and in-depth learning experience and cultivating more talents with an international perspective and interdisciplinary abilities for society.

2. The connotation and characteristics of the smart teaching model

2.1 Definition of Smart Teaching Mode

The smart teaching model is a new type of teaching approach that is student-centered, utilizing modern information technology and smart teaching tools to achieve personalized and dynamic instruction. It emphasizes the interaction between teachers and students during the teaching process, as well as the optimal allocation of teaching resources and the innovative application of teaching methods. The smart teaching model not only focuses on the transmission of knowledge but also places greater importance on the cultivation of students' abilities, especially in critical thinking, innovation, and lifelong learning skills.

To effectively implement the smart teaching model, the following strategies should be adopted: Teacher professional development: Strengthen training for teachers in information technology and smart teaching concepts to enhance their ability to use smart teaching tools. Application of learning analytics technology: Utilize learning analytics technology to track and analyze students' online learning behaviors, providing data support for teaching. Continuous updating of course content: Update and optimize course content in accordance with the development of disciplines and societal needs to ensure the timeliness and forward-looking nature of teaching materials. Improvement of the student learning support system: Establish a comprehensive student learning support system to provide services such as learning guidance, psychological counseling, and career planning. Through the implementation of these strategies, the smart teaching model can better adapt to the needs of university English teaching in the context of new liberal arts, promoting the comprehensive development of students and improving the quality and efficiency of teaching.[3]

2.2 Core elements of the smart teaching model

The core elements of the smart teaching model include the following aspects:
Personalized learning path design: Learning paths are designed according to each student's learning characteristics and needs, allowing students to learn at their own pace and based on their interests.

Integration of smart teaching resources: Various digital teaching resources, such as online courses, virtual laboratories, and intelligent question banks, are integrated to provide students with a rich variety of learning materials.

Construction of an interactive learning environment: An interactive learning environment is built using intelligent platforms and tools, encouraging students to participate in discussions and collaborate on problem-solving, thereby increasing the initiative and engagement in learning.

Data-driven teaching decisions: By collecting and analyzing students' learning data, teachers can more accurately understand students' progress and difficulties, leading to more targeted teaching decisions.

2.3 Comparison of smart teaching mode and traditional teaching mode

The smart teaching model emphasizes personalization and interactivity, which, compared to traditional teaching models, places greater emphasis on students' learning experiences and outcomes. In the smart teaching model, teachers are no longer the sole source of knowledge but rather guides and facilitators of the learning process. Students can access learning resources anytime and anywhere through smart devices and platforms, enabling self-directed learning.

Moreover, the smart teaching model utilizes big data and artificial intelligence technologies to achieve precise analysis of students' learning processes, thereby providing personalized learning suggestions and feedback. With this model, students' learning progress and levels of understanding can be monitored in real-time, allowing teachers to adjust their teaching strategies based on the analysis to meet the needs of different students.

Compared to traditional teaching models, the smart teaching model also emphasizes interdisciplinary integration. By integrating knowledge and skills from different disciplines, the smart teaching model fosters students' comprehensive literacy and innovative abilities. Students are exposed to a more diverse range of knowledge during the learning process, which helps them better adapt to the complex demands of future societies.

In summary, the smart teaching model differs significantly from traditional teaching models in terms of teaching philosophy, methods, resources, and evaluation. It achieves personalized, interactive, and smart teaching through technological assistance, providing students with a richer and more efficient learning experience.

3. Strategies for Constructing an smart teaching Model of College English in the Context of New Liberal Arts

3.1 Innovative Integration of Teaching Content

Firstly, in the context of the new liberal arts concept, the integration of interdisciplinary knowledge is particularly important for the innovation and integration of university English teaching content. Course design should go beyond the traditional scope of language teaching, combining language learning with knowledge from various disciplines such as culture, history, technology, and economics to form interdisciplinary teaching modules. For example, by introducing cultural background knowledge related to English-speaking countries, students can learn not only the language but also understand the differences and connections between different cultures, thereby fostering a global perspective.[4]

Secondly, emphasis should be placed on the cultivation of critical thinking and innovative abilities. Teaching content should focus on developing students' critical thinking and innovative abilities. Through the design of open-ended questions and case studies, students are encouraged to think actively, question, and explore, rather than merely accepting established knowledge. For instance, teachers can organize debates, seminars, and other activities that allow students to exercise their critical thinking and problem-solving skills in practical application. At the same time, through project-based learning, students can learn how to use English for cross-cultural communication and collaboration in practice, further enhancing their innovative and practical abilities.

3.2 The diversification and personalization of teaching methods

In the context of the new liberal arts, the smart teaching model of university English emphasizes the diversification and personalization of teaching methods. Teachers need to adopt a variety of teaching methods, such as flipped classrooms, project-based learning, collaborative learning, etc., to adapt to the learning styles and needs of different students. Through these methods, students can learn the language in practice and improve their language application skills.

In addition, the implementation of personalized teaching strategies is also an important part of the smart teaching model. By using big data to analyze students' learning behaviors and grades, teachers can tailor learning plans for each student and provide personalized guidance and support. This targeted teaching method helps to stimulate students' interest in learning and improve learning efficiency.

3.3 The digitization and intelligence of teaching resources

Under the smart teaching model, the digitization and intelligence of teaching resources are key to achieving efficient teaching. By establishing digital textbook libraries, online courses, and virtual laboratories, students can access learning materials anytime and anywhere for self-study.

The development of smart teaching resources is also an important direction for the future development of teaching resources. For example, the use of artificial intelligence technology to develop intelligent tutoring systems can provide students with instant Q&A services, helping them solve problems encountered in learning. At the same time, intelligent analysis systems can track students' learning progress and provide teachers with timely teaching feedback, thereby optimizing the teaching process.

3.4 The dynamization and comprehensiveness of teaching evaluation

In the smart teaching model, teaching evaluation is no longer limited to traditional exams and tests, but pays more attention to process evaluation and dynamic evaluation. By continuously tracking the learning process of students, teachers can more comprehensively understand the learning situation of students and adjust teaching strategies in a timely manner.

At the same time, the methods of evaluation are more diversified, including not only written exams, but also oral reports, project assignments, peer evaluations, and other forms. Such an evaluation system can more comprehensively reflect the learning outcomes of students, promoting balanced development in language skills, critical thinking, and innovation abilities among students.

4. Challenges and Countermeasures in Implementing Smart Teaching Models

4.1 Technological Challenges and Countermeasures

In the implementation process of smart teaching models, technological challenges are an important part. First and foremost, teachers need to master advanced information technology in order to better utilize various teaching tools and platforms. Therefore, strengthening teachers' information technology training is one of the important countermeasures to address technological challenges. Through regular training and workshops, teachers can continuously improve their technical skills, thereby applying smart teaching models more effectively.

Secondly, establishing a robust technical support team is key to solving technological challenges. This team can provide timely technical support and solutions for teachers, ensuring the smooth progress of teaching activities. The technical support team is also responsible for monitoring and maintaining the operation of teaching platforms, promptly identifying and resolving potential technical issues.

In addition, schools should invest in advanced teaching equipment and software, providing the material foundation for smart teaching. By continuously updating and upgrading teaching hardware and software, the modernization of teaching resources and the innovation of teaching methods can be ensured.

Lastly, encouraging teachers to engage in technical exchanges and collaboration, sharing their experiences and insights in smart teaching, is also an effective way to address technological challenges. By establishing a teacher community, mutual learning and collective progress among teachers can be promoted, fostering a positive and progressive smart teaching environment.

4.2 Challenges and Countermeasures in the Transformation of Teachers' Roles

To adapt to the mode of smart teaching, teachers need to transition from traditional knowledge transmitters to guides and facilitators of student learning. This requires teachers to possess not only solid professional knowledge but also the ability to guide students in self-directed learning and critical thinking. Teachers should encourage students to ask questions, lead them to engage in deep thinking and discussion, thereby fostering students' innovative abilities and problem-solving skills.

Schools should offer continuous professional development and continuing education opportunities for teachers to help them master the latest educational concepts and technological tools. By participating in seminars, online courses, and workshops, teachers can continuously update their knowledge systems and improve teaching skills. Additionally, schools can invite educational experts and industry leaders to give lectures and exchange ideas, providing teachers with a broader perspective and more learning resources.

Establishing platforms for teacher collaboration and exchange can promote mutual learning and experience sharing among teachers. Through regular educational research activities and teaching observations, teachers can learn from each other's teaching methods and strategies, and jointly explore problems and challenges encountered in teaching. This collaboration and exchange contribute to creating a positive teaching atmosphere and enhancing the overall teaching level of teachers.

The implementation of smart teaching modes relies heavily on teachers' proficient use of technology. Therefore, schools should regularly organize technology training to help teachers master the use of various teaching software and platforms. Teachers should learn to enrich teaching content with multimedia and online resources, enhancing classroom interactivity and students' interest in learning. At the same time, teachers should also possess basic technical troubleshooting skills to address potential technical issues during teaching.

4.3 Challenges and Strategies for Student Adaptability

To assist students in adapting to the smart teaching model, schools should encourage the development of autonomous learning skills among students. By offering relevant courses and workshops, students can be taught how to set learning objectives, manage their study time, select appropriate learning resources, and evaluate their own learning outcomes. Additionally, teachers can use online platforms to provide personalized learning tasks and feedback, guiding students to self-monitor and adjust during the learning process.[5]

In the smart teaching model, students have diverse learning needs and abilities, making personalized learning support particularly important. Schools can utilize big data analytics to analyze students' learning behaviors and performance, thereby providing tailored learning suggestions and resources for each student. At the same time, teachers should regularly engage in one-on-one communication with students to understand their learning difficulties and needs, offering targeted tutoring and assistance.

5. Conclusion

The smart teaching model can not only meet the diverse needs of college English teaching under the new liberal arts context but also helps to improve the quality and efficiency of teaching. By innovating teaching content, methods, resources, and evaluation systems, the smart teaching model provides students with a richer and more flexible learning experience.

In the process of building an smart teaching model, schools and teachers need to continuously explore and practice to ensure the continuous optimization and updating of teaching strategies. At the same time, attention should be paid to the deep integration of technology and education, ensuring that technological tools can effectively serve teaching goals.

In addition, teachers play a crucial role in the smart teaching model. They need to continuously update their teaching concepts and skills to adapt to the new teaching environment and student needs. Through continuous professional development and training, teachers can better utilize smart teaching tools to provide high-quality education for students.

Finally, as the direct beneficiaries of the smart teaching model, students need to cultivate the ability and habit of autonomous learning. Schools and teachers should stimulate students' interest in learning through various means and help them adapt to the smart teaching environment, thereby achieving comprehensive personal development in the context of the new liberal arts.

References

[1] Li, M., & Wang, Y. (2020). "Smart Teaching in the New Liberal Arts Era: A Case Study of English Language Education." Journal of Language Teaching and Research, 11(5), 789-796.
[2] Zhang, Y., & Liu, J. (2021). "Integrating Technology in English Language Teaching: Challenges and Opportunities in the New Liberal Arts." Computer Assisted Language Learning, 34(3), 245-261.
[3] Chen, X., & Huang, R. (2019). "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in English Language Teaching: Insights from the New Liberal Arts." Educational Technology & Society, 22(2), 15-27.
[4] Wang, L., & Zhang, H. (2022). "Innovative Approaches to English Teaching in the Context of New Liberal Arts." Language Learning & Technology, 26(1), 1-15.
[5] Gao, Y., & Sun, Y. (2023). "Smart Education and English Language Teaching: A New Paradigm in the New Liberal Arts Era." Journal of Educational Technology Development and Exchange, 16(1), 45-60.