

# The Strategies for the Construction of the College English Ecology Class for the Art and PE Majors

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College English course is an important part of college education for college students, but so far the College English class for Art and PE majors is not satisfactory. The students are not actively participating in the College English class activities. So, this paper first analyzes the state-quo of the College English class for art and PE majors, and then puts forward some strategies to construct the College English ecology class based on some theories about the ecology class, hoping to find some effective ways to improve College English teaching effect for art and PE majors.

*Keywords:* College English, ecology class, strategies, Art and PE majors

Scholars, such as Tudor (2001), Fan (2000), and Li and Lv (2010), from the perspective of ecology, regard the class as a mircoecological system which studies the interactions among the ecological factors, for example, the relationship between entities (students and teachers) and the class environment, such as the lights, the seats, the scales of the class, etc. In this kind of class teaching activities, the continuous energy transmission and circulation of information exist among entities, entities and environment, the class activities no longer mean the teaching process and the student's passive learning, but the interactions between teachers and students and among students themselves. It is a dynamic process in which the energy (teachers' and students' emotions, attitudes) flows, the materials (teaching resources) recycle, and the information (knowledge, qualities, and abilities) passes among the ecological entities and between the entities and the environment. In this case, the class can be seen as the ecology class. We study it and analyze the factors affecting the survival and development of the ecological entities in the teaching reality to put forward the relevant teaching strategies and the plan to make a progress in the teaching, making the class environment become a harmonious, balancing, and sustainable ecological system beneficial for the growth of the ecological entities.

## The Analysis of Ecology Disorder in College English Class for Art and PE Majors

In order to construct College English ecology class, we first should know the status-quo of the College English class for the Art and PE major. Altogether there are four kinds of disorders existing in the class, which must be removed as so to meet the requirements for the ecology class.

### The Disorder of the Ecological Entities

The teachers and students are the major ecological factors in the College English class. From the point of view of ecology in the College English class ecological system, only when the ecological factors are in the proper positions and play their respective roles can the balance and stability in the whole system be ensured. In

the benign College English class ecological system, the teacher plays the leading role and the student plays the major role in the class teaching activities (Chen, 2006). So far, because the students' English basis is poor and they lack the learning initiatives, the teaching activities cannot be carried out. Most teachers adopt the traditional teaching mode: The teacher is the center of attention and they unconsciously play the major role in the teaching while the students are the passive receivers. They are not in their right position in the teaching. However, the students from the Art and PE departments are active-minded and they like to and are good at expressing themselves. In the traditional teaching mode, many students want to speak out their minds, but they do not know how to or have no chance to do it. In the long run, it leads them to losing the interest in English-learning or taking the bad attitude towards English learning.

### **The Disorder Between the Ecological Entities and Environment**

The scale of the class is one of the major factors in the class ecological environments, influencing the ecological entities' behaviors, emotions, and attitudes. Cahen's study shows that in smaller class the teachers and students behave happier and more active. The teachers can better cater to the students' different needs (Fan, 2000). So, the teaching in the small class can contribute to the healthy development of the ecological entities. But the amount of students in the College English class from the Art and PE departments is at least 70. The large scale of class is not beneficial to the good interaction between teachers and students and makes it difficult to train the student's language skills and reduces the opportunity for them to express themselves in the class. Thus, they are more and more unwilling to participate in the teaching activities, thus unable to improve their English abilities. At the same time, the teacher cannot have a clear picture of the students' English learning and fully cater to different students' needs in English knowledge and abilities. It is hard to achieve the excellent teaching effect.

### **The Disorder of Energy Flowing in the Class Ecological System**

The energy flowing in the College English ecological system can be present inside the populations and between populations. In the former one—among the students, anyone's change of state of mind will affect the learning atmosphere. In the latter one, the energy flowing is reflected in the mutually emotional impact between teachers and students (Ren, 2013). Because of the large scale of the class, limited meeting, and faraway relations between teachers and students, it is not easy to establish the effective communication between teachers and students. Some students are unwilling to take part in the teaching activities and hold the resistant attitude towards the English class, and in the end lose the interest in the class, which will undermine other students' English-learning and influence the teachers' teaching and vice versa. So, the disorder of energy flowing in the class ecological system comes into being.

### **The Disorder of the Sustainable Development of Ecological Entities**

The students' sustainable development can be defined: When finishing the study of a course, the knowledge the student masters and the abilities he has obtained cater to not only the need for job-hunting but also the need for the development in the future. As far as now, the assessment for the English study effect of the Art and PE students is the summative assessment, without the formative assessment. It is hard for the teachers to monitor and evaluate the student's learning effect and process comprehensively during the teaching process and it leads students not to participating in the class activities actively and the poor self-learning ability, which put a limitation to the student's sustainable development.

### **The Two Aspects of College English Ecology Class for Art and PE Majors**

The class environment is an important part of the ecology class in College English and plays a crucial part in the construction of the ecology class. In College English class, in order to achieve the goal of constructing the ecology class, the good natural and social environments are badly needed.

#### **The Construction of Good Natural Environment**

The so-called “natural environment” mainly means the settings in the classroom. The good classroom settings can empower the students with a good mood and inspire their learning initiatives. For example, we should make sure that there is bright light and fresh air in the classroom and the classroom must be clean and well set. The discussion section in the classroom should be allocated according to the student’s needs.

#### **The Construction of Good Social Environment**

The social environment in the class means the relationships between teachers and students, the relations among students, and the interactions among teachers, students, and the teaching materials. The ecology class should be student-oriented and aim to create the harmonious class environment and relaxing class atmosphere. For example, when the teachers explain the English knowledge, some relevant cultural background can be introduced. The teacher can ask students to share their knowledge about the western culture, which can broaden the students’ horizon and inspire their learning initiatives.

### **The Strategies for the Construction of the College English Ecology Class for the Art and PE Students**

The construction of the ecology class is a systematical process. Although most teachers have some ideas about the ecological system, they spend less time and energy exploring the strategies for the construction of the ecology class. In fact, there are lots of work to do. The followings are the five strategies for the construction of the ecology class.

#### **To Establish and Improve the Ecology English Teaching Belief**

Only through emphasizing the construction of College English ecological class system can we in the essence motivate the student’s initiative for the self-learning. In fact, only when we are truly aware of the significance that the ecological English teaching brings, expand the teaching contents, and perfect the College English teaching belief from many aspects, can we enhance the teaching quality all around. When the teacher develops the student’s English ability, they should focus on the student’s need for the practical communication and perfect the class ecology based on the concrete teaching environment to improve the teaching effect and efficiency.

#### **To Establish the Ecology English Teaching Environment**

College students are in a bad need of good learning environment. The construction of the ecology class aims to perfect the traditional teaching system and attach the importance to training the student’s ability in the future work in the teaching process. Therefore, it seems especially important to establish a good teaching environment. There should be communications between teachers and students. Teachers should make students keep in more touch with the English language and the cultural background behind it to arouse their learning interests and improve their English ability.

### **To Construct the Diversified Teaching Systems**

College students aim to master the language and to communicate with native speakers, so as to better understand the western culture and its diversity through English learning. It is the students' learning expectation and the practical need. So, the teachers should establish the diversified teaching systems considering the actual situation. First of all, the teacher should pay much attention to the penetration and consolidation in the knowledge transmission. Secondly, they should create the harmonious personal relationships in which teachers and students can communicate freely. Thirdly, they should include the transcultural communication in their teaching content, which can make students broaden the vision.

### **To Form the Ecology Teaching Assessment Awareness**

The effect of English learning should be evaluated because the evaluation can make students have a clear idea of their own learning. Furthermore, it can show them the weak points and urge them to work harder. So the assessment is an effective measure to prompt the student's development. So, we should build a scientific objective comprehensive and multidimensional assessment system from which students can benefit a lot. Concretely speaking, the followings factors are included in the ecological assessment. Firstly, the varieties of persons who give the assessment should be diversified. In the most cases, the class evaluation is given by the teachers to the students. However, the ecological assessment is conducted by the teacher and the student, so that more problems can be found. Secondly, the ways the assessment is given should be diversified. It can be diagnostic, progressive, or exterminating. Each of them has different advantages. Teachers should apply them into practice based on actual situations. Thirdly, the content the assessment includes should be diversified. The teacher should evaluate not only the scores but also the student's attitude towards the study, the learning methods, and efficiency, etc.

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