

## Discuss on Marginalization about Language Education in Higher Education

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**Abstract.** Language education, which is in higher education, should play a guiding role. However, the current status of language education is not optimistic. This paper, which elaborates the positioning of language education, teaching materials, the current academic status, psychological problems of current students, and so on, shows all problems of current language education, then proposes the solution on this basis. It starts from defining positioning of university language education, reforming teaching content, humanity, tools, and comprehensive to specifically addressed how language education in higher education to achieve this mission guidance objectives.

**Keywords:** marginalized, language education, higher education, humanities education, human spirit.

Language education is the basic subject in human education of the new China, which is instruction medium with a model of written language works in ancient and modern, fundamental purpose by inspiring and developing students' intellectual, task by written language communication standard and Chinese common human psychological of assimilating modern. And higher education is professional education after secondary education, is social activities by train highly qualified specialists<sup>[1]</sup>. Thus, language education in higher education should play a guiding role, but the fact is language education in higher education increasingly marginalized as we see from currently taking place in the phenomena inside the university campus.

### 1. First phenomenon: dispute on position about university language education.

Ministry of Education gives position to university language education that "university language education is a quality education to face liberal arts (excluding Chinese Language and Literature), science and engineering, agriculture, medicine, finance, politics and law, foreign languages, arts, sports and other students in university. However, there is no uniform understanding on position about university language education in practice. What kind of role should play in university education? What kind of effect can assume? What kind of position can take? In recent years, it was fierce controversy. To sum up, there are the following arguments.

**Tools:** This argument was from famous language educator Ye Shengtao and Mr. Lv Shuxiang. This view think that university language is a continuation of primary and secondary language, students should further enhance the ability of speaking and writing to easy read difficult books and writing theory papers, That focus on its "usefulness"<sup>[1]</sup>. Especially in the case of general decline in quality of the students language, getting too much thesis typo, writing unreasonable sentences.

**Humanities:** It is considered that humanity is the essential attribute of the university language. The main task of language lessons is through language learning and insights to develop emotional, mod sentiment and promote the Chinese humanistic spirit.

**Quality:** In this view language is a communication tool, and a thinking tool, but also tools. To understand and transform the world. The task of language lessons is to develop and improve the quality of

their language, for example: developing students thinking skills and literary appreciation, and so on. Even they want university language to be able to introduce students with cultural history, science history, education history, knowledge, mainly in order to inspire and educate students' language interested, which are the national language, literature and culture. In particular, it may be re-aroused the loss interest in the examination-oriented education, enable students to appreciate the language beauty, human beauty, and then develop the closeness and pride of national language and culture.

## 2. Teaching materials orderless.

Teaching materials of university language are showing an orderless state. It is reported that from the 1980s, university language teaching materials of China's holdings is nearly 1,500 species, language teaching materials for the university are now more than 100 titles. However, a typical problem in teaching materials construction is regardless of pros and cons. Teachers take their own teaching materials to students for job classification and other factors. No high-level teaching materials, it is difficult for students to receive university language.

## 3. Reducing status of university language lessons.

**Reducing language lessons hours, required courses become elective courses or even cancelled:** In 2006, 《Plan Outline of National Cultural Development during "Eleventh Five-Year" 》 period pointed that university could create conditions to set up Chinese language courses for all students, Ministry of Education recommended for all universities setting up Chinese language courses for students. Followed by Peking University and a number of universities set language as compulsory elective courses. It sees as that language education had returned to the university classroom with vigorous posture. But the reality is that many insight people issue voice "save the university language", "university language, appendix of the utilitarian era". Thus, for the issue of "not taken seriously by the university language in university ",it is diametrically opposed between principle "answer and practical "answer<sup>[2]</sup>. As a public class, almost every universities in the country are open university language with ideological and political classes , English classes, which in itself shows the importance But in fact, neither university language has the authority as ideological and political course, and nor CET exam holds the "silver bullet". Needless to say, university language is facing the situation in college in recent years that courses number reduced and required courses became elective course. (As shown in figure 1, the trend of language lessons hours among 30 years in Hang Zhou Normal University); even more in science and engineering colleges, the university open language courses are numbered.

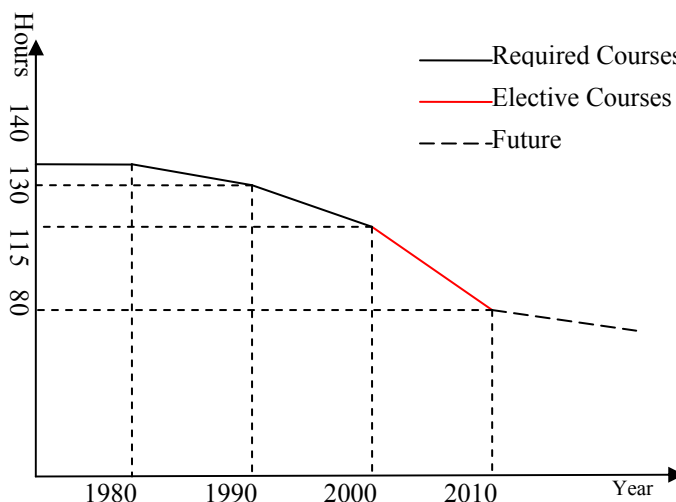


Fig. 1: Evolution diagram of language lessons hours among 30 years in Hang Zhou Normal University

**Giving way to foreign language learning and other:** Since ancient times, Chinese language is our most important communication tools and information carriers, it carries a long thick, extensive and profound Chinese culture, is the mark of our nation and pride. <<National Common Language Law>> stipulates that mandarin and standard Chinese characters are the national common language. In order to enhance the

people's cultural quality, it is necessary to speed the spread of mandarin and standard Chinese characters to promote the new breadth, to expand rather than narrow its use, to enhance its vitality at home and abroad<sup>[1]</sup>. But the reality? Children into the nursery was started on the English interest groups, elementary, middle, high school, the children did not attend very few courses in English; whether undergraduate or college in university, the school's top priority of college students is to deal with the university CET examination, students do spend too much time and energy; After work, professional title is compulsory in English, the most ridiculous comment is that learning Chinese titles must be won off English, and so on. It is not need to enumerate all the status, each of us deeply feel the deep concern about the English language of whole nation. But what our mother language do? Looking at crooked characters of Chinese college students, listening the rough words and sentences of newspapers, and popping on the network, think of those "very yellow, very violent" language bar. English bilingual educations not only had shaken the Chinese language of the national common legal status, but also effectively zero effect of the political class.

Practical is first in utilitarian age. Profit-oriented education is result in college students for university language that "it is not easy to say 'love you'". The reality of employment pressure make college students have to believe in "foreign languages, computers, not one less". The employer don't see "Chinese class certificate" at employment, that university language was forced to a corner has become a natural thing.

#### 4. Poor quality of students mental.

In recent years, there are many suicides in colleges. Analysis of the specific reasons, These factors ,which is learning and work pressure, family pressure, interpersonal alienation cause by social competition, love and their own problems, are the main cause. As a highly educated students, why life is so fragile? This had made us reflect on the nature of the existing language education as a guiding role.

Table 1 have been reported suicide data in university from 2005 to 2010, according to incomplete statistics.

Tab. 1: Suicide data tables in university from 2005 to 2010 as reported.

Unit	Year					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Peking University	6	1		1	1	1
Tsinghua University	1	3	2			
Communication University of China	1			1	1	2
University of Science and Technology Beijing			1		1	3
Beijing Institute of Technology	1	2		1	1	
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>52</b>

From the table we can see that college students commit suicide annually; in some universities seem to have the fine suicide tradition every year; the more good schools and outstanding students, the more suicide; suicide was focused on multiple, some suicides occur first, more case break out in a short time<sup>[3]</sup>.

We have to think about language education in higher education from the above factors. Pure culture, tools, quality has failed to meet the needs of society. It have explored the ethical standards and academic literacy of scientists, generally people agreed that a scientist lack with ethics and social responsibility is not real scientist; instead, the higher the academic quality, the greater danger to society. University education is in the case, it is not only to train students' professionalism, but also should plastic their soul. For this reason, I view with the following:

#### 5. The positioning of university language courses: humanity is core and playing tool at same time.

In higher education, the university has long been different point about language nature. Ministry of Education decrypted that "Setting language courses, in a full-time university, the purpose is that full playing tools and humanities characteristics of language subjects, adapting the increasingly cross-penetration trends of contemporary humanities and natural science, training talent with high-quality all-round quality for China's socialist modernization". Thus, university language is emphasis on the humanity, but also pays attention to its instrumental; neither of them can not be neglected. We should emphasize the student's professional competence and moral literacy, find the balance point between humanities and practical.

## 6. University language curriculum and achieve way.

Since the age gives university language with the heavy history duty, university language is impossible rely solely on a purely university language teaching materials. University language should be used as a system, mainly from the following three aspects:

**Full playing the tools characteristics of language subjects, training professional talents:** Modern society is that people get dynamic interaction to survive and developed with people. Language (including oral language and written language) as the most important communication tool, plays an important role in communication. The level of ones language about Language expression, communication and collaboration with others will directly determines his success or failure in social activities. The most direct nature of language is tools, language courses solve communicative problem (including oral communication and written communication) of occurring in production, live, learn, and work. Therefore, we should give full play to the tools of the characteristics of language subjects, Therefore, we should give full playing the tools characteristics of language subjects to train application-oriented talents, which can use standard Mandarin to communicate with people, decent question and answer problems, some of the speeches and arguments, write instruments of commonly used applications To this end, we can see university language as a system based on different teaching objectives and teaching requirements for subject teaching, decomposing the functions of university language carrying.. Such as , creation "Writing" courses improves students' writing ability; creation "art appreciation", "aesthetics" and other courses trains students to form good habits and aesthetic standards of beauty.

**Full playing the comprehensive and practical characteristics of language subjects, over all students' quality:** Students with higher education should have a strong practical ability; therefore, the university language teaching should give full play to its practical features. On the one hand, university language teaching must strengthen practice teaching, such as organizing speech contests, poetry recitation contest, debate competition, candidate simulated competitions, and so on, Standard students Chinese language expression, training image and emotional of students oral expression, improving students' oral expression. Students feel wonderful of mother tongue in the contest, then love mother tongue, active learn their mother tongue, and feel pride with splendid culture inherent in our language. On the other hand, by reading and understanding a lot full of cultural implication of classic article. Students can improve the aesthetic and cultural accomplishment. By writing practice, students can master the necessary writing formats and requirements, and improve the image of the thinking and logical reasoning ability. Through hearing training and practice, students develop social communication skills and team spirit.. In order to achieve this teaching content, we can combine university language teaching with cultural activities on campus, which include guiding students to participate in community activities, organizing large-scale cultural activities on campus to achieve the purpose of introducing high art and creating a good art atmosphere. Founding publications and websites with characteristics of the human qualities and arts education is to finally achieve the purpose of university language teaching.

**Full playing the humanities characteristics of language subjects, training students human spirit:** Currently "university language" teaching material are relate to China excellent human spirit in almost universities,, all articles contain author's personal charm and spirit charm, reflect the author's unique beauty of human nature and human beauty, left the rich human spirit legacy to future generations . Such as, Qu Yuan was the noble sentiments that "The world is turbid and I am alone cleared, the world is drunk and I am alone sober "; Tao Yuanming was feeling outside world that "Picking daisy under the east fence, leisurely to see the south mountain," and so on. Therefore, university language is tool to implement the human spirit and

human quality education, it is not only need to have expertise of complete, system, solid in the discipline, but also have deep understanding of the national human spirit. University language could critically inherited and learn previous idea results of rich and profound, which reflect the noble ideals, healthy personality, positive spirit, and full upon fine literature of ideal aesthetic value with rich wisdom. it can understand profound insights and valuable experience of natural, social and life from Chinese sages; understand their thoughts and feelings, personality and moral, aesthetic taste, Then ,it will lay a good ideological foundation for comprehensive ability of college students. In order to achieve this the teaching content, we can set up "Chinese literary classics readings", " appreciation of world famous classics" and other programs to enrich students' cultural knowledge and human spirit.

University is large, not only with masters, but also with the guiding role of language education, especially today's information overload to impact on campus with various network thought in the larger environment . "China, stops you flying footsteps, wait your people, wait your soul, hold on to your morals, wait your conscience! Do not let the train derailed, do not let the bridge collapse, does not let the road into trap, and does not let the house become dangerous. Going slowly, so that every life has freedom and dignity, everyone is not thrown by 'time', everyone successfully safely reach the end". It was a microblogging message of netizen after Wenzhou Train derailment rear-end accident at 7.23 in 2011. College students, as the main force of the future nation-building, language education plays an indelible role for their growth.

## 7. References

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