

The Concept and Thinking of Introducing Multiple Foreign Language Teaching into Open Education under the Background of “The Belt and Road”

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Abstract: Under the strategic background of “The Belt and Road”, the talents with comprehensive application ability and scientific and technological creativity are needed for the international society in the future. At present, Zigong Radio & TV University is in a period of transformation and development. Therefore, the introduction of multiple foreign languages for teaching is especially necessary for talent cultivation. This paper analyzed the current situation and shortcomings of foreign language teaching in Zigong Radio & TV University and put forward the concept and thinking of implementing multiple foreign language teaching in combination with the idea of serving the construction of “The Belt and Road” and the reality of Zigong Radio & TV University.

Key words: open education; multiple foreign languages; teaching

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With the rapid development of economic globalization and regional economic integration, many countries around the world pay more and more attention to language, since different countries have different languages. Besides, language culture is of great significance to economic development and progress. Language carrier is indispensable to the transmission of any culture, which is also needed for cultural communication.^[1] The strategic measure of The Belt and Road proposed by our country is also in continuous development and plays a positive role in the whole world’s economic development and overall stability. In the future, the international society needs talents with comprehensive application ability and scientific and technological creativity. The purpose of adult education teaching is to provide skilled practical talents for the society. Therefore, under the current development background of The Belt and Road, adult education schools should attach importance to foreign language teaching, continuously cultivate high-quality talents with practical foreign language skills, promote the effective implementation of The Belt and Road Initiative and also accelerate the educational development and upgrading of Zigong Radio & TV University.

1 The Situation and Shortcomings of Foreign Language Teaching in Zigong Radio & TV University

Since the reform of national open education English curriculum began in the spring of 2018, each major is divided into humanities series and science and engineering series. Currently, Humanities English, Science and Engineering English, Business English and Management English are offered separately, as shown below table 1.

However, at present, the overall situation of foreign language education in adult education institutions is not ideal in China. At present, the main problems in foreign language education and teaching in adult education institutions of Zigong Radio & TV University are as follows:

1) At present, English is still the main language, and English curriculum items are differentiated according to different majors.

Table 1

Applicable Majors	Humanities English	Science and Engineering English	Business English
Law, Social Work, Chinese Language, Educational Management and Preschool Education	√		
Elementary Education, Administrative Management, Public Affairs Administration and Rural Administration			
Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Machinery Manufacture, Hydraulic and Hydroelectric Engineering and Nursing Science		√	
Gardening, Pharmacy, Majors offered by leaders in rural economic development, agricultural production and achievement of rural prosperity, such as animal husbandry and horticulture, and Major in Assistance Planning			
Accounting, Business Administration, Finance, Logistics, Marketing and Tourism Specialty			
Vehicle Maintenance, Construction and Management, E-commerce and etc.			
Others			√

Humanities English (1) (2) (3) (4) is set for humanities series majors, and Science and Engineering English (1) (2) (3) (4) is set for science and engineering series majors. However, there are rare majors relating to Business English and Management English.

2) The curriculum items offered are mainly for workplace application, and there are no practical English curriculum items for management.

3) There are no English courses relating to health care majors.

2 Problems of Zigong Radio & TV University’s Foreign Language Teaching Serving “The Belt and Road” Initiative

The proposal of China’s The Belt and Road Initiative, an extremely right policy, is enthusiastically supported by neighboring

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countries. Under such a background, all enterprises in our country are actively carrying out various economic and trade exchanges with enterprises in relevant countries, and economic ties and cooperation are becoming increasingly close. The exchanges between Chinese enterprises and foreign enterprises are not only about economy but also about humanity and culture.^[2] Under such circumstances, high-level talents with practical foreign language skills are urgently needed by all enterprises. Enterprises require such foreign language talents to improve their ability to communicate with foreign enterprises. At present, only English is used for teaching in Zigong Radio & TV University. Due to the large difference in the level of students in Zigong Radio & TV University, there is a large difference in English level among students. At the same time, Zigong Radio & TV University students have poor self-learning ability; the contradiction between work and study is prominent, and students have little interest in learning English, which results in poor English teaching effect in Zigong Radio & TV University and restricts the healthy development of English teaching in adult education.

3 The Concept of Introducing Multiple Foreign Languages under the Background of “The Belt and Road”

1) The Necessity of Introducing Multiple Foreign Languages under the Background of “The Belt and Road”

With the continuous development of The Belt and Road Initiative, China has also accelerated the pace of economic development. There are a total of more than 60 countries and regions along The Belt and Road routes, and relevant statistics show that by the end of 2017, more than 60 projects have been jointly built by China's central enterprises and the countries and enterprises along The Belt and Road routes. The construction of these 60-plus projects will definitely require a large number of domestic professionals, and foreign language skills must be mastered when going abroad and communicating with foreigners.^[3] The initial purpose of adult education in China is to cultivate a large number of high-quality talents with practical skills for the country. Therefore, these practical talents cultivated by Zigong Radio & TV University are needed in the development of The Belt and Road. With gradual deepening of The Belt and Road, higher standards have been set for these talents, especially for their foreign language ability. Therefore, if adult education institutions want to participate in “The Belt and Road” Initiative, they should attach importance to foreign language teaching and the cultivation of students' foreign language level, so that students can have a basic understanding of foreign language knowledge, take part in foreign economic activities by using foreign language knowledge and participate in “The Belt and Road” Initiative. Such background provides great opportunities for adult education in China. Therefore, it is especially necessary to introduce multiple foreign languages into open education for teaching.

2) The Introduction of Multiple Foreign Languages under the Background of “The Belt and Road” Is Conducive to the Cultivation of Foreign Language Talents

There are 65 countries along “The Belt and Road” routes, and more countries and enterprises will participate in it in succession. Therefore, a large number of language talents are needed. Although English is the universal language in the world and is used in many countries including China, there are still many countries that use their own languages in communication. Therefore, when economic exchanges and cooperation are conducted with such countries, their own languages should be mastered so as to ensure smooth communication and development of cooperation projects.^[4] Some infrastructure projects announced by China at present mainly include

cross-border high-speed rails, such as Eurasian High-speed Rail, Central Asian High-speed Rail and Pan-Asian High-speed Rail, and communications and electric power construction as well as other infrastructure projects. The implementation of these national projects requires compound language talents who understand both foreign languages and professional technologies. Moreover, with the development of regional economy, the demand for foreign language talents, internationalized talents and international talents is bound to grow. Therefore, in the aspect of training college students of related majors in adult education institutions, attention should be paid to multiple foreign language auxiliary teaching and to train internationalized foreign language talents with compound foreign language ability for the development of “The Belt and Road” of our country.

4 The Thinking of Introducing Multiple Foreign Language Teaching under the Background of “The Belt and Road”

Based on the fact that adult education still has many problems in foreign language teaching and the fact that Zigong Radio & TV University is in the transition and development period, if adult education institutions want to participate in and serve the development of “The Belt and Road”, they must take a new path under the current trend of regional economic development.

1) Change the Educational Concept and Serve the Needs of Social Development

Under the background of “The Belt and Road”, foreign language teaching in adult education institutions should actively explore ideas suitable for the development of adult education in China, accurately locate, set training objectives, update teaching ideas, optimize foreign language teaching curriculum system, utilize the platform of “Internet plus Teaching and Learning”, strengthen social practices and meet this strategic demand through various ways. In particular, some practical and operational majors, especially Finance, Construction, Logistics Management, Roads and Bridges and Engineering Cost, need to make great efforts in foreign language teaching. This is because these majors are more likely to be involved in foreign-related activities in the development of “The Belt and Road”. Many fields, such as cooperation between countries and various exchange activities carried out spontaneously by the people, in aspects of economy and culture are involved in the development of “The Belt and Road”, so the demand for foreign language talents is very high. If these specialized foreign language courses will be set up as compulsory and optional courses for public English; the monotonous English education in the past will be changed into a diversified foreign language teaching method and a brand new integrated teaching mode will be constructed based on different forms of cultivation and teaching of “English + minor languages” and “major + minor languages”, this will not only help students improve their foreign language ability but also enable them to learn more about the knowledge and development of various internationally advanced disciplines.^[5] Therefore, in the process of foreign language teaching, it is necessary to find out the direction of development, carry out focused and targeted education and transform single English teaching into multiple foreign language teaching to break through the previous unilateral teaching and realize comprehensive foreign language teaching.

2) The Trend of Educational Policies Should Pay More Attention to International Trends and Localization Factors

At the present stage, the foreign language education in our country focuses on English, and the foreign languages are relatively simple. In fact, not only does the society need English, the demand

for other languages is also increasing. In view of the fact that there are too few foreign languages in our country at present, some experts and scholars have proposed the following opinion: when teaching foreign languages is carried out in different regions, the teaching of various languages should be vigorously developed combining with the local actual situation to realize the diversification and differentiation of foreign language education, because China has a vast territory and adjoins many countries.^[6] “The Belt and Road” Initiative puts forward higher requirements for foreign language education in China’s universities and colleges. In order to ensure that universities and colleges can play the greatest role in the development of “The Belt and Road” Initiative, the state must first formulate macro policies, such as adopting multilingual foreign language teaching in domestic adult education institutions, which is a measure worth further exploration.

3) Cultivation of Multiple Foreign Language Talents can Support the Transformation and Development of Zigong Radio & TV University

The main way for the education industry, especially higher education institutions, to serve “The Belt and Road” Initiative is to cultivate a large number of high-quality and practical talents. At present, the training of talents in Zigong Radio & TV University is mainly based on education for academic qualifications, making every effort to expand non-academic education training, continuing education for high-quality service teachers, creatively carrying out community education and education for the elderly and forming a pattern with stable principle work and pluralistic development. Through the promotion of “The Belt and Road” Initiative, our country’s language policy and foreign language education reform have been optimized and deepened. Combining with school-running characteristics and resource advantages of Zigong Radio & TV University, we will give prominence to key points, promote the multi-dimensional development of talent cultivation, explore and implement a talent cultivation mode of multiple foreign language teaching and actively participate in the concrete implementation of “The Belt and Road” Initiative. This will not only meet the needs of “The Belt and Road” development but also be conducive to the transformation and development of Zigong Radio & TV University in the future.

5 Conclusion

The blueprint for the development of “The Belt and Road” re-

quires languages to pave the way. The language of a country is the country’s advance team. If a country goes in that direction, the language of the country should go there first.^[7] The open education of Zigong Radio & TV University keeps pace with the times and is undergoing a gradual transformation in line with the development situation. It should seize the opportunity to accurately locate and move from local to international in the future. It should perfect the foreign language discipline setting, optimize the foreign language teaching mode, improve the quality of foreign language teaching and train more high-quality foreign language talents needed for realizing this strategy. By doing such efforts, it contributes to paving the way for “The Belt and Road” and “going first” for the country to move towards the world.

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