

# Teaching Mode of Higher Vocational English Under Web-based Environment

Yingying Pan\*

Wenzhou Vocational College of Science and Technology, Wenzhou, 325016, Zhejiang, China

**Abstract:** Higher vocational English is a foreign language course in vocational colleges. The level of a foreign language has become an important measurement to judge a modern person. It is important to improve one's comprehensive qualities and abilities for individuals. Network education provides a completely new way of learning for people. English teaching under web-based environment is a kind of educational mode integrating computer technology, multimedia technology, network technology and modern educational method, through the multimedia teaching information collection, transmission, processing and sharing to realize the task of English teaching. Compared with the traditional English teaching mode, network English teaching has incomparable superiority. This paper based on the advantages of network platform, according to the characteristics of higher vocational education and the students, referenced the college English teaching reform, proposed a set of explorations for English teaching mode, achieved satisfactory result.

**Keywords:** Higher vocational english, network environment, teaching mode.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

English teaching in higher vocational education has a special position. Under the background of globalization, English education has not only been a subject, but with the characteristics of society. English teaching directly impact upon all aspects of students' growth. Through English, students can learn about the culture of the world, expand vision, cultivate the habit of humanistic spirit, learn and use foreign advanced technology, even exercise communication ability and so on.

Recently, with the development of network technology, many universities in China built up a web-based autonomous English learning system, which provides a good learning environment and sound foundation for autonomous study. In this background, traditional practical teaching mode has been unable to meet the social requirements. The establishment of student-centered teaching mode and the application of web-based multimedia modern educational technology are main aspects of higher vocational English teaching reform.

## 2. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HIGHER VOCATIONAL ENGLISH TEACHING

Higher vocational English is a foreign language course in vocational colleges, which has some relations but also differences with college English [1]. The status of higher vocational education in the higher education is increasingly prominent, has become an important component of Chinese higher education. The vigorous development of higher vocational education has cultivated a large number of

high-quality senior technical personnel for social and economic development. Higher vocational education has formed to serve the needs of economic and social development after many years of practice and theory research. It is said that higher vocational education need to build the market oriented, employment oriented development mode in the educational orientation [2]. On the personnel training target, it need to emphasize the cultivation of professional ability and practice ability. In the personnel training pattern, it need to realize school-enterprise cooperation and work-study combination.

The level of a foreign language has become an important measurement to judge a modern talent and a very important requirement in improving one's comprehensive qualities and abilities for individuals [3]. As a guiding document for English teaching of higher vocational school, Basic Requirements for Higher Vocational English, which issued by Ministry of Education, clearly put forward the teaching philosophy "be oriented toward practical applicability, for the purpose of application" [4]. It is not only a requirement of the society for individuals, but also a very important requirement in improving one's comprehensive qualities and abilities for individuals.

## 3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORK EDUCATION

The arrival of information age has broken the education attributes. Computer and network technology development provides a good opportunity for network education. Network education, which is guided by the modern education thought and learning theory, is a kind of learner-centered non-face-to-face education under Web-based Environment [5]. Network education can give full play to the network of education function and the advantage of abundant network educa-

tion resource. Network education provides people with a completely new way of learning [6].

Network education provides a completely new way of learning for people. It has some distinctive and function: makes educational resource-sharing become reality, provides self-learners with optimum conditions and opportunities, helps to achieve interactive study, promotes the socialization of education and social learning [7]. Many countries attach great importance to the network education and make great efforts to support this new way of education and development, such as investing a lot of money to promote the development and popularization of network education, expanding the popularization of network education.

#### 4. THE ADVANTAGES OF NETWORK EDUCATION IN HIGHER VOCATIONAL ENGLISH TEACHING

English teaching under web-based environment is a kind of educational mode integrating computer technology, multimedia technology, network technology and modern educational method, through the multimedia teaching information collection, transmission, processing and sharing to realize the task of English teaching [8]. Compared with the traditional English teaching mode, network English teaching has incomparable superiority.

##### 4.1. A Huge Massive of Information

Multimedia technology can provide the text, sound, dynamic and static image integration interface. Teachers can show and switch the contents of teaching flexibly as needed. This makes the classroom teaching content becomes more vivid, more fulfilling, more visual and more attractive, and can make the abstract, dried learning content into image, interesting, visual and audible dynamic. The abundant network resources can be used without limit. Students can search or download information related to English learning content, such as the cultural background knowledge and study reference material from the Internet. They can also use the platform provided by local area network (LAN) and software in the host computer to train English listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

##### 4.2. Information Update Immediately

The goal of higher vocational education is to provide the society with practical talents. It is necessary to acquire the latest knowledge that closely related to the current social development. Only like this can have stronger competitiveness in society. It is generally known that the time of paper textbooks published means that some information is outdated, while the network resources can update immediately, and provide students the latest learning resources and information.

##### 4.3. Open Teaching And Learning Environment

English teaching resources based on computer and network open to all English learners. Every student can participate in the network English study under the equal condition, at the same time can make use of network free to comment and suggestion. Teachers can also collect the students' opinions and suggestions in the first time, answer students' ques-

tions in time, and evaluate their performance in the process of completing the task. The communication between students can not only break the classroom space constraints, but also combine the learned knowledge with foreign culture. This can play a positive role to improve the students' multi-cultures cross-border communication abilities.

##### 4.4. Promote Learning Initiative

As an autonomic and open learning environment, English study in the network requires students to be more active, initiative and self-controlled, further enhance the autonomy of students to choose learning materials. Students can according to the teaching goal and related topics to choose their own topics of common interest for training. This can promote the students' initiative of learning greatly.

##### 4.5. Be Good for Individuation Study

Network English teaching can reflect the teaching thoughts of people-orientation and individualization. Multimedia network has broken the traditional English teaching pattern boundaries of time and space, built an infinite open teaching space. Students can no longer subject to the constraints of time and space of classroom teaching. They can complete autonomous learning anytime and anywhere with the help of computer CD courseware and network, language difficulties can be repeated learning, until they understand. Study time is flexible, can be long or short, controlled all by the students themselves. Students can also be free to choose the level of learning content according to their actual situation. Moreover, students can realize their problems of learning with the feedbacks from computer, in order to adjust their own learning contents and improve the methods.

#### 5. THE CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHER VOCATIONAL ENGLISH TEACHING MODE

##### 5.1. The Thought of Higher Vocational English Teaching Mode to Build

Exploring the construction of higher vocational English teaching mode under the network environment is derived from the successful experience of China's college English teaching reform. The network multimedia technology, not only caused the change of teaching means, but also triggered a change teaching idea. It has changed the the traditional teaching mode of teacher-centered and simple teaching language knowledge in our country for a long term, began to establish an active individualized teaching method that centers on the students [9]. So, if the new model of college English teaching reform can applied to higher vocational English? Whether the higher vocational English teaching can constuct a teaching mode under network environment? It need to have an analysis of the commonness and difference between college English teaching and higher vocational English teaching, need to discuss the feasibility of constructing this mode [10].

First, from teaching character and goal, college English takes a foreign language teaching theory as the guide [11]. The main contents are English language knowledge and application skills, cross-cultural communication and learning strategy. Its main goal is to cultivate the students' English

comprehensive and application ability, especially listening and speaking skills, to make sure them can communicate effectively in English in the future study, work and social activities, at the same time to improve their ability of autonomous learning, improve the comprehensive literacy, to meet the need of social development in our country and international communication. Compared with the higher vocational English teaching described previously, we can find that both of them require the students to possess certain language knowledge and skills, and have a certain ability to use language. The difference is that the college English highlights the cross-cultural communication and learning strategy. It is said that the parallels are greater than the differences.

Secondly, from the teaching requirements, college English teaching should carry out the principle of classification guidance to adapt the actual needs of personalized teaching [12]. Higher vocational English course requirements also point out the English level of each one is difference when they entered school. English teaching requirements are divided into A, B two levels. Students entered school with high level should achieve level A level requirements, while the low level should at least meet the requirements of level B. With the constant improvement after learning, all students should achieve A level requirements. There are detailed specific requirements of the level divided. Comparison and analysis can find that both of them acknowledge the differences in students' English level, and establish the principle of graded teaching.

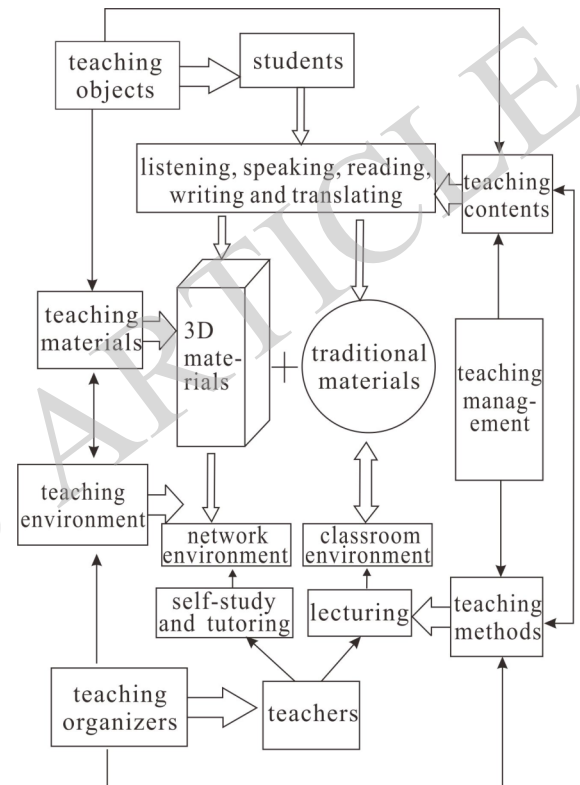
Thirdly, from the teaching mode, college English teaching should make full use of multimedia and network technology, adopt new teaching model to improve the original teaching method, make sure the English teaching can't limited by time and place, development to the direction of individualized and autonomous learning [13]. It need to arouse the enthusiasm of teachers and students, especially establish the subject status of students in the teaching process. At the same time, also should fully consider and reasonable inherit the outstanding part of the existing traditional teaching mode. Higher vocational English course requirements pointed out that schools should introduce and use modern teaching platform actively, such as computer multimedia and network technology, to improve schools' condition of English teaching, organize students to participate in colorful English extracurricular activities, create a better atmosphere for English learning and arouse the students' self-consciousness and English learning motivation. We can see clearly that adopt modern teaching such as network and multimedia is an important method to change the stereotyped teaching mode.

In conclusion, college English teaching model under the network environment can be referenced for higher vocational English by modifying.

## 5.2. Higher Vocational English Teaching Mode Under the Network Environment

Reference college English teaching mode, higher vocational English teaching can build the mode of classroom combined with network environment teaching as shown in the Fig. (1).

The network teaching in this mode refers to the online learning environment. The classroom teaching is the traditional way of teaching. The essence of which is introducing multimedia network technology in higher vocational English teaching, optimizing the teaching process, emphasizing the combination of network autonomous learning and classroom teaching. View from the teaching contents, including the higher vocational English listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating. The five aspects of teaching organization can not only measure by separate way, but also be in the form of integration [14].



**Fig. (1).** Higher vocational English teaching mode under the network environment.

In the higher vocational schools with modern teaching conditions and facilities, English teaching can be fully in the environment of multimedia network teaching based on campus network. Every English class can be combined with the teacher's explanation and Internet for further development and training. In other schools with conditions and facilities are relatively backward, English teaching can be divided in two, one part of the knowledge teaching in the traditional classroom and the other part study in network multimedia classroom [15]. This new model, which is characterized by computer aided instruction, is the carrier of three-dimensional teaching material, which embodies the following characteristics:

First, highlights the advantages of multimedia network teaching. In teaching process, integration of voice, image, text and animation increased sensory stimuli to the students. This will make the teaching content visualization, three-dimensional and vivid, not only improve the students' interest and attention to learning even improve the learning effi-

ciency, but also can make the language difficult to understand through multimedia means to be simple. Network for the student provides more authentic language environment. The information on the Internet can be said as a inexhaustible "information ocean", knowledge updates faster and strong interest, subject matter rich and varied, is good information on training students' reading and listening. Through the Internet, students can not only enjoy the good English movies and TV programs, can also use MSN, ICQ and e-mail with native speakers in English for oral or written communication, which to improve the students' language ability to use have great help to improve students' language, listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating ability, make the past boring English learning become more interesting. The network multimedia teaching makes the students' personalized learning be possible, so that the way of foreign language learning has changed a lot. In local area network (LAN) or autonomous learning center, students can not limited by time and space, make full use of the open, diversified and real language learning environment. According to the arrangement of teaching contents and tasks, and their own level and needs, they can select the appropriate learning content by suitable for their schedule and method for personalized learning [16].

Second, combined with network teaching and classroom teaching is a new teaching mode. The students autonomous learning and teachers' teaching one of the better teaching mode embodies the teachers and students in English teaching process in their own play the role and bear the task, the teacher is the leadership, the student is the subject [17]. The teaching mode that main required students autonomous learning and teachers guide students for teaching better reflected the roles of teachers and students in English teaching and learning process: the teachers are the leaders, the students are the subjects. Compared with the traditional classroom teaching method, this mode makes it more individual and more rational.

**5.3. The Constitute of Network Teaching System**

New mode of Higher Vocational English Teaching under the network condition is not denial and subversion to the traditional teaching mode. Exactly, it is using modern information technology to make up and improve the shortcomings in the traditional teaching mode, and let the traditional teaching mode in valuable teaching method and experience the continuation; is a combination of traditional and modern coexistence of two kinds of teaching model of, the two complement each other.

In the new model, there are two parts in the teaching system, one is the traditional classroom teaching system, the one is the network teaching system based on the network multimedia. The former generally includes 3 elements, such as teacher, student and teaching material, while the latter includes the elements of the media. Network teaching system is mainly composed of the teaching module and some auxiliary modules, is the prerequisite for the development of network teaching and requirements. Referring to the relevant information, the network teaching system of higher vocational English can be made of the following subsystems (Fig. 2).

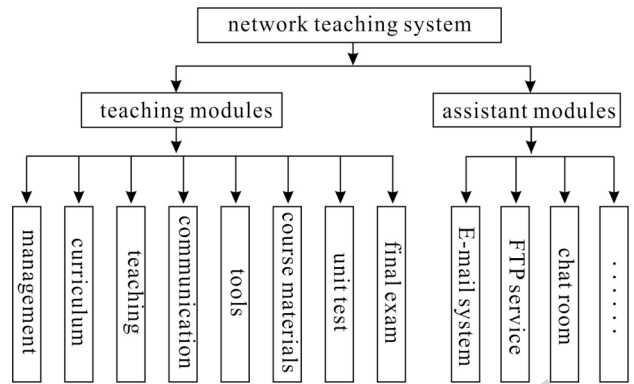


Fig. (2). Constitute of network teaching system.

**5.4. English Teaching Progress Under the Network**

After the composition of the network teaching system, the operation procedure of this teaching mode is discussed. Students' learning process, as shown in the following Fig. (3), first of all to be familiar with the basic characteristics of the teaching mode of the network conditions and the requirements of the course. Then, according to the structure of the network on the learning content of the learning content, and through the unit test, in order to detect the contents of the master. If a student fails to pass the unit test, the students will continue to learn and consolidate until the course is required. If passed the unit test, can accept the teachers counseling. After that, students can start the new unit to continue to learn, in order to complete the teaching content in such a sequence [18].

**6. THE PRACTICE OF HIGHER VOCATIONAL ENGLISH TEACHING UNDER WEB-BASED ENVIRONMENT**

Due to the characteristics of higher vocational education, English teaching time is limited, teaching task is tight. The

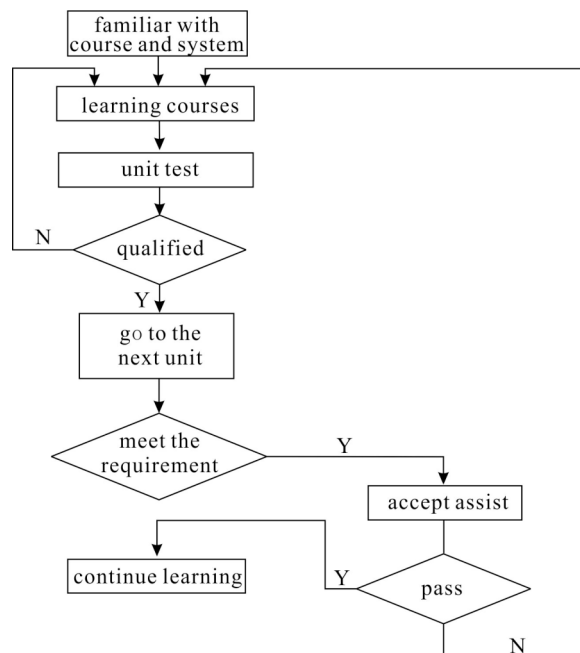


Fig. (3). English Teaching progress under the network.

traditional way of teaching can't finish the corresponding teaching requirements. Therefore, this paper based on the advantages of network platform, according to the characteristics of higher vocational education and the students, performed a set of explorations for English teaching mode, achieved satisfactory result.

### 6.1. The Traditional Teaching Combined with Network

Due to limited teaching time and the variety of higher vocational English teaching materials, teachers can only choose one in practical teaching. It is necessary to let students "informed". The best way is to use the advantages of network platform to combine the actually single textbook with abundant network curriculum. Teachers can choose one or a few network materials according to the actual need for teaching. After that, students can achieve not only a textbook. The real earnings will be more than expected.

### 6.2. The Reform of Classroom Teaching Mode

The classroom is the main place of current education. How to make students effectively master classroom teaching content and the corresponding skills is the key problem of English teaching. First, lead the classroom discussion outward to outdoors activities. In addition to the normal classroom discussion, it is required that every student, especially the students did not speak in class, should give opinions or have debate on the platform of class network BBS. The amount of speech content must reach demands. Followed by the open courseware, each unit teaching courseware should publish on the network platform. Students can review the class contents and read relevant background materials. Teachers can save a lot of time to participate in activities with students or the supplement the teaching contents.

### 6.3. Network Autonomous Learning Management

As a student, the mainly use of network learning is in the spare time after class. Due to network learning has strong autonomy, some students' ability of self-discipline is not strong, will hard to avoid causing actual learning efficiency low. It is obvious that too much supervision from teachers unfavorable to the cultivation of students' self-discipline. The author mainly adopts the model of task management for students in practice. Students participate in network learning have a certain task every time. The task will be divided into must selected and optional, in order to take care of different levels of students. This method can make sure students' independent study targeted, become an effective extension of the classroom.

## CONCLUSION

Higher vocational English teaching under web-based environment is a new attempt under the new situation. Although some problems exist in the network platform, but overall, the benefits of long-term are very worth, and problems can be solved through a certain way. Through constantly exploring and research, we will focus on the combination of English classroom teaching and extracurricular autonomous learning ability effectively, make full use of the advantage of network and multimedia, integrate various re-

sources, take the students for the center of teaching, exercise them become high-quality personnel.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author confirms that this article content has no conflict of interest.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The study was funded the Science research project of Wenzhou Vocational College of Science and Technology: Reform of the traditional teaching mode, improve the effectiveness of Vocational English classroom research (No. kjxyjg1544).

## REFERENCES

- [1] J.L. Arquero, and E. Romero-Frías, "Using social network sites in Higher Education: an experience in business studies", *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, vol. 50, no. 3, pp. 238-249, 2013.
- [2] J. Huisman, H. Boer, and P.C.P. Bótas, "Where do we go from here? The future of English higher education", *Higher Education Quarterly*, vol. 66, no. 4, pp. 341-362, 2012.
- [3] T. McCowan, "Opening spaces for citizenship in higher education: three initiatives in English universities", *Studies in Higher Education*, vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 51-67, 2012.
- [4] A.N.X.Z. Long, "Report on the project of English curriculum requirements for higher vocational and technical education", *Foreign Languages in China*, vol. 4, p. 005, 2010.
- [5] B.P.C. Kreukels, I.R. Haraldsen, G. De Cuypere, H. Richter-Appelt, L. Gijs and P.T. Cohen-Kettenis, "A European network for the investigation of gender incongruence: The ENIGI initiative", *European Psychiatry*, vol. 27, no. 6, pp. 445-450, 2012.
- [6] C. Jigang, "A contrastive study of online peer feedback and online teacher feedback on Chinese college students' English writing", *Foreign Language World*, vol. 2, p. 011, 2011.
- [7] M. Shuchao, F. Wei and G. Yang, "The policy thinking on the construction of modern vocational education system", *Research in Educational Development*, vol. 21, p. 004, 2011.
- [8] C. Graham, "Discourses of widening participation in the prospectus documents and websites of six English higher education institutions", *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, vol. 34, no. 1, pp. 76-93, 2013.
- [9] G. Moodie, "Variations in the rate at which students cross the boundaries between Australian vocational and higher education", *The Australian Educational Researcher*, vol. 39, no. 2, pp. 143-158, 2012.
- [10] A. Hodgson and K. Spours, "Vocational qualifications and progression to higher education: the case of the 14-19 Diplomas in the English system", *Journal of Education and Work*, vol. 23, no. 2, pp. 95-110, 2010.
- [11] C.J.L. Leizhao, "EAP vs. ESP--The Orientation of College English", *Foreign Language Education*, vol. 6, p. 014, 2010.
- [12] Z. Zhi-Qun, "Learning-sphere curriculum and course development in vocational education", *Journal of Xuzhou Institute of Architectural Technology*, vol. 2, p. 002, 2010.
- [13] M. Meeuwisse, S.E. Severiens and M.P. Born, "Reasons for withdrawal from higher vocational education. A comparison of ethnic minority and majority non-completers", *Studies in Higher Education*, vol. 35, no. 1, pp. 93-111, 2010.
- [14] J.J.W. Powell, N. Bernhard and L. Graf, "The emergent European model in skill formation comparing higher education and vocational training in the Bologna and Copenhagen processes", *Sociology of Education*, vol. 85, no. 3, pp. 240-258, 2012.
- [15] K. Hua, "Dynamic teaching and learning of higher vocational English", *Journal of Changzhou Vocational College of Information Technology*, vol. 2, p. 020, 2010.
- [16] Dong L. The teaching of basic English module of higher vocational education, *Journal of Jiamusi Education Institute*, vol. 8, p. 234, 2013.

[17] H.I. Huang and C.F. Lee, "Strategic management for competitive advantage: a case study of higher technical and vocational education in Taiwan", *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*, vol. 34, no. 6, pp. 611-628, 2012.

[18] A. Cochrane and R. Williams, "Putting higher education in its place: the socio-political geographies of English universities", *Policy & Politics*, vol. 41, no. 1, pp. 43-58, 2013.

---

Received: June 10, 2015

Revised: July 29, 2015

Accepted: August 15, 2015

© Yingying Pan; Licensee *Bentham Open*.

This is an open access article licensed under the terms of the (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>), which permits unrestricted, non-commercial use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the work is properly cited.

RETRACTED ARTICLE