

Problems on the Application of Multimedia in College English Language Teaching in China

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Abstract

The educational policy in China places teachers of college English under the pressure to embed multimedia into their teaching. In 2004, Ministry of Education in China issued the Requirements for College English Teaching, indicating that multimedia and Internet technology should be used in all colleges and universities in an attempt to replace the traditional teacher-centered teaching mode by student-centered personalized learning and autonomous learning. Until now, almost all colleges and universities have applied multimedia in their English teaching. The application of multimedia in language teaching has shown positive results in the real teaching and learning context. However, problems did appear in the teaching. Different voices about the effectiveness of the application of multimedia have been heard among language teachers and students.

This paper intends to discuss the existing problems in the application of multimedia in college English language teaching. Research methods include survey and interviews among randomly selected English teachers and students in City College of Wenzhou University in Zhejiang, China, which situates in southeast China where technology development has been comparatively advanced and the application of multimedia in teaching has lasted for almost 10 years. By comparing the traditional teaching mode and the current multimedia-aided teaching mode, the positive and negative sides of the two modes will be revealed. The underlying reasons for the failure of the application of multimedia will also be voiced by teachers and students. By comparing the different problems and their causing facts pointed out by the two groups of teachers and students, the study demonstrates that gaps in the understanding of the issue exist between teachers and students and therefore suggests that students' involvement in the class planning be necessary for teachers. Apart from that, suggestions for solving the existing problems and improving the application of multimedia will also be put forward in the paper.