

Research on the Influence of Internet on Extracurricular Learning and Life of English Major College Students

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Abstract—Informatization is one of the most important characteristics of the current era, Internet (including mobile Internet, called network for short in this paper) is an important medium of information dissemination, and its rapid development speed and penetration rate make the classroom life and extracurricular life of contemporary English major college students inseparable from network. Through the online questionnaire and field research for the influence of network on the extracurricular learning and life of English major college students in some universities in Chengdu, Leshan, Mianyang, Nanchong, and other regions in Sichuan, this paper makes a thorough analysis on the problems found, probes into the influence of network on the extracurricular study and life of English major college students and the consequence, and discusses how to use network to guide, serve and manage the extracurricular learning and life of English major college students.

Index Terms—Internet English, major College students, extracurricular learning and life

Internet technology in China has gone through the beginning, development and deepening stage since 1994, and it has had a profound influence on the way people think and act, especially on young students. Currently, in the university campus taking post-90s as the main body, network has become an important part of the study and life of English major college students; therefore, how to use network to guide, serve and manage the classroom life and extracurricular life of English major college students has gradually attracted the attention of today's educators. Based on this, the research group has invited 300 English major college students in some universities in Sichuan to participate in the research through online questionnaire and interview. The main content is to research the influence of network on the classroom life and extracurricular life of English major college students, and know the current situation of the influence of network on their classroom life and of extracurricular life. From the perspective of how to use network to improve and strengthen the management on the classroom life and extracurricular life of English major college students, this paper provides valuable opinions and suggestions for the study and life management of English major college students through the analysis on questionnaire and interview data.

I. SURVEY FOR THE INFLUENCE OF NETWORK ON THE EXTRACURRICULAR LIFE OF ENGLISH MAJOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Questionnaire and individual interview are the main means for research team to collect information, conclusion is based on the questionnaire, and individual interview is the important reference in the process of data analysis. In order to ensure the comprehensiveness of the self-evaluation of English major college students, in the variable selection, problem design, trial investigation, revision, and other links of questionnaire, problem design includes positive evaluation and negative evaluation and the variables selected in the questionnaire meet the objective of the research team to ensure the objectivity and comprehensiveness of the self-evaluation of English major college students; the questionnaire is scientific and effective.

In the samples, the research group has selected four universities in Chengdu, Leshan, Mianyang and Nanchong in Sichuan, and has selected 51 English major college students from the Foreign Language Department of each university to participate in the online questionnaire and submit. A total of 204 students have participated in the online questionnaire and 204 questionnaires have been collected. The recovery rate is 100%. There are 198 effective questionnaires, and the effective rate is 97.1%. Among the students participating in the survey, 197 of them are Han students, and 25 of them are minority students; from the perspective of gender, 108 of them are boys (52.9%) and 96 of them are girls (47.1%); from the perspective of family origin, 74 of them are from the countryside (36.3%), 30 of them are from the town (14.7%), and 100 of them are from the city (20.4%); from the perspective of major, 115 of them are teacher-oriented English major college students (56.4%), and 89 of them are non teacher-oriented English major college students (teacher-oriented English major college students); from the perspective of grade, 52 of them are from Grade 2016 (25.4%), 49 of them are from Grade 2015 (24%), 59 of them are from Grade 2014 (28.9%), and 44 of them are from Grade 2013 (21.6%).

II. ANALYSIS OF THE INFLUENCE OF NETWORK ON THE EXTRACURRICULAR LIFE OF ENGLISH MAJOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The research group uses SPSS18.0 to do the statistical data and combines the interview to do the analysis.

(1) Influence of network on the time arrangement of classroom life and extracurricular life of English major college students

Liu (2012) argues that extracurricular life is an essential part of college life for English major college students, and the extracurricular time is the time outside the classroom that English major college students can manage freely themselves. Among the 198 English major college students who have participated in the survey, 48.28% of them think their extracurricular time is abundant, and only 15.19% of them think their extracurricular time is not enough; 71.94% of them think they can arrange their extracurricular time properly, and 16.2% of them think they can't arrange their extracurricular time properly. So, has the network become an important part of extracurricular life of English major college students? As shown in Table 1, among the 198 English major college students who have participated in the survey, surfing the Internet occupies the most of extracurricular time of English major college students with a high proportion of 89.90%, far exceeding traditional reading (62.62%) and sports (22.22%), and English major college students spend an average of 10-18 hours a week on the Internet (as shown in Table 2).

TABLE 1
INFLUENCE OF INTERNET ON THE ARRANGEMENT OF EXTRACURRICULAR TIME OF ENGLISH MAJOR COLLEGE STUDENTS. COMPOSITION OF SAMPLE (N=198)

option	subtotal	proportion
Reading	124	62.62%
Part-time job	52	26.26%
Surf the internet	178	89.90%
Sports	44	22.22%
Entertainment	148	74.74%
Others	69	34.84%

TABLE 2
TIME OF ENGLISH MAJORS SPEND ON THE INTERNET EVERY WEEK(%)

option	subtotal	proportion
Under 7 hours	25	12.63%
7-13 hours	73	36.87%
14-21 hours	48	24.24%
More than 21 hours	52	26.26%

So, does the network have an influence on the extracurricular time arrangement of English major college students? The survey has shown that 49.79% of English major college students think that network has great influence on their extracurricular study and life arrangement, and only 7% of them think that network has no influence on their extracurricular study and life arrangement, so it can be seen that network really has an influence on the time arrangement of extracurricular study and life of English major college students.

(2) Influence of network on extracurricular learning and lifestyle of English major college students (including interpersonal communication)

1. Influence of network on extracurricular lifestyle of English major college students

Network has changed the way people live at an unprecedented rate since the 21st century. It can be seen from the questionnaire survey that English major college students are important part of society, and influenced by network, their lifestyle has undergone tremendous change. Chat tools have narrowed the distance between students, and they have replaced telephone, telegram and letter, and have become the main mode of contact among English major college students. Universities no longer only rely on traditional media to obtain information, but network can provide them with whatever information they want. Shopping mall is no longer the only choice to purchase living and learning goods, and with the rise of online shopping, English major college students can buy all kinds living and learning goods while sitting in their dormitories. Even knowledge is no longer just obtained through class, library, bookstore, and other ways, network can bring English major college students the knowledge that their teachers haven't talked about in class.

TABLE 3
THINGS THAT ENGLISH MAJORS ALWAYS DO ON THE INTERNET

option	subtotal	proportion
Chatting	144	72.7%
Listening to the music and watching movies	178	89.9%
Playing games	32	16.16%
We-chat	120	60.60%
Blog	135	68.18%
Reading news	154	77.77%
Shopping	156	78.79%
Searching information	155	78.28%
others	43	21.7%

2. Influence of network on way of interpersonal communication of English major college students

Network has shortened the distance between people, and the earth has become “global village”. As the most active group in society, English major college students generally have seen little of the world, their life experience is still shallow, the range of their interpersonal communication is still narrow, but of course their mode of contact and communication can be changed by network. English major college students can release and obtain all kinds of information through the network, and can also do long-distance discussion and communication with strangers. Network brings English major college students into the touch with the ethnic cultures, social customs and habits around the world, makes them understand different cultures, and enriches their life experience.

TABLE 5

option	subtotal	proportion
Connect with friends	187	94.44%
Make new friends	35	17.68%
Entertainment	124	62.62%
others	49	24.75%

(3) Influence of network on extracurricular study of English major college students

In extracurricular learning, English major college students pay more attention to the use of educational resources on the Internet. As shown in Table 6, 52.09% of students think the educational websites are good, and 43.11% of students think the teaching information on the Internet is rich; it updates in time, and its delivery is strong. Network has also changed the study way of English major college students, and it has become the first choice for English major college students to find learning materials. The survey has shown that in professional learning, 85.7% of students find the answer to the problem they do not understand through the network; only 21.5% of English major college students ask the teacher for help. The open teaching resources on the Internet expands the space for the autonomous learning of English major college students, and provides an independent learning platform for extracurricular learning; however, the current educational resources on the Internet still need to be strengthened. As shown in Table 7, 73.23% of English major college students think the resource supplement of extracurricular knowledge should be strengthened, and 63.13% of them hope to strengthen the construction of MOOC; therefore, the influence of network on the extracurricular learning of English major college students is becoming more and more prominent, and the influence is positive.

TABLE 6
ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES CONSIDERED BY ENGLISH MAJORS(%)

option	subtotal	proportion
Lack of variety and quality	36	15.32%
Still have some good educational webs	113	48.09%
Rich of teaching information,update in time with strong interactivity	59	25.11%
Little attention has been paid to this aspect	27	11.49%

TABLE 7
THE ASPECTS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED IN THE EXISTING ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN ENGLISH MAJORS' MIND(%)

option	subtotal	proportion
Scientific research	82	34.89%
Skill	130	55.32%
Extracurricular knowledge	145	73.23%
Speech and eloquence	129	54.89%
Web-based learning(MOOCs)	125	63.13%
Interaction	125	63.13%

(4) Influence of network on extracurricular activities of English major college students

Does network have an influence on the extracurricular activities of English major college students? As shown in Table 8, 64.14% of English major college students think network has great influence on their extracurricular life, and only of them think network has no influence on their extracurricular life. The rapid development of network technology and tremendous amount of information provides various choices for the extracurricular life of English major college students. As shown in Table 9, 54.26% of interviewees think the network enriches their college life, 25.76% of English major college students think network can help them develop personal interests, and all of these can promote the professional learning of English major college students, enrich the extracurricular life of English major college students and develop their personal interests.

TABLE 8
EVALUATION OF THE INFLUENCE OF INTERNET ON EXTRACURRICULAR LIFE OF ENGLISH MAJORS(%)

option	subtotal	proportion
No impact	5	2.52%
Affect to some extent	82	41.41%
Have some influence	127	64.14%
Have a great influence	21	64.14%

TABLE 9
THE ROLE OF NETWORK IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

option	subtotal	proportion
Facilitate learning	40	20.20%
Enrich the English major university life	107	54.26%
Develop personal interests	51	54.26%

(5) Negative influence of network on extracurricular life of English major college students

Everything has two sides, computer network is no exception, it is a “double-edged sword”, and it also has negative influence when enriching the extracurricular life of English major college students. As shown in Table 10, 48.98% of students express that network has great negative influence on their extracurricular life, and only 4.04% of students think network has no negative influence on their extracurricular life.

TABLE 10
DOES THE INTERNET HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE EXTRACURRICULAR LIFE OF ENGLISH MAJORS?

option	subtotal	proportion
Have a great influence	97	48.98%
No impact	8	4.04%
Affect to some extent	50	25.25%
There is a clear distinction between the Internet and reality	42	21.21%

So, what negative influence does the network have on English major college students? As shown in Table 11, 88.88% of students think that network causes poor academic performance and neglect of study. And 68.18% of students think network has an influence on their interpersonal relationship, thus it can be seen that English major college students have realized the negative influence of network.

TABLE 11
ENGLISH MAJORS ARE OBSESSED WITH THE MAIN NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE INTERNET

option	subtotal	proportion
Sleep disturbances	176	88.88%
Desalination of relationships	135	68.18%
Produce negative morals and values	68	34.34%
Neglect their studies	145	73.23%

III. STRATEGY AND SUGGESTION

Through researching the current condition of the influence of internet on extracurricular learning and life of English major college students, this paper aims at the existing problems, combines internet’s characteristics, the characteristics of English major college students, and the practice of their extracurricular learning and life, and focuses on how to improve the management of extracurricular learning of English major college students to put forward the following strategies and suggestions.

(1) Enhance psychological guidance and promote of English major college students to manage their extracurricular learning scientifically

It’s surveyed that most of university students’ mentality is weak. In the work, colleges and universities have put the psychological health education of English major college students in very important position. The educators in colleges and universities should enhance the psychological counseling of English major college students, and encourage and spur on them, building an effective communication platform between the teachers and students. Based on the psychological characteristics of university students, psychological curriculum and a series of lectures should be initiated to carry out individual psychological counseling actively, so as to let students know themselves in the activities like Peer Counseling and learn to adjust themselves, and prevent them to only seek for comfort from virtual network when they meet difficulties and setbacks. Through the implement of a series of “Three Go” activities, English major college students should be guided to go out of the dorm, get off from the internet and go to playground, and manage extracurricular time scientifically.

(2) Make use of the internet effectively and set up information platform of extracurricular life of English major college students

Traditional educational methods cannot meet the studying and living demand of English major college students. Network education is fit to establish the studying environment of constructivism, can offer more enough information to the establishment of knowledge, meets the requirements of individualized learning, and provides better condition of extracurricular cooperative learning to English major college students. The educators in colleges and universities should understand network education correctly and make campus network play a role in teaching through lively activities fully, and set up different professional websites aiming at different educational content, increase the qualities of knowledge, practice and interest, and make campus network become a communication platform between teachers and students or students and students on morality, study, thought and emotion. For example, the construction of Yiban network and

Mooc not only enriches extracurricular life of English major college students, builds new educational carrier in campus and eliminates the communication barriers existing in traditional education, achieves to know yourself as well as the enemy and offers reference to next educational work, and but also provides practical platform to English major college students, makes them manage their extracurricular time reasonably, and extends the channels of extracurricular learning.

(3) Make full use of network information technology to train basic English skills

English majors must constantly train their basic skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. David (2004) argues that nowadays internet still has a lot of valuable websites and applications which can help students improve their English abilities. We can use information technology to help us correct English mistakes. Correct our pronunciation mistakes by using the recording software and imitate sounds by listening to the audio of native speakers online will be the best way for English majors to improve oral English. Some apps will also give students a chance to use small time to learn vocabulary as well as grammar. Make full use of network information like BBC News will train basic English skills.

(4) Use the Internet to learn the Chinese traditional culture in cross-cultural communication

In the tide of globalization, it is necessary for students to master English and use the Internet to learn our traditional culture in cross-cultural communication. However, mother tongue should not be weakened and sacrificed at the expense of foreign language teaching. Zhang (2003) argues that learning our traditional culture in the mother tongue can make us feel familiar and have a better understanding of traditional Chinese culture. Therefore the use of bilingual is the best learning mode which can improve our foreign language ability and meet the requirements of Chinese traditional culture communication to the contemporary students.

In English, there are a large number of Western religious culture, such as the Bible, which is considered as the best English learning materials, is derived from the profound cultural connotation. As a matter of fact, Confucianism and Taoism in China also have a great influence on the culture. Mark (2000) argues that by reading these books online, we can have a better understanding of the differences between these two languages. Then we can improve the ability to control the language and the use of accuracy. For example, Dragon has the totally different meaning in the eastern and western cultures. In China, dragon is the symbol of national totem. But in the West, it represents the evil forces. From this we can see, we cannot deny the fact that cultural comparison is attached great importance. Only by cultural comparison can help us understand the language environment and improve the accuracy of English application. So we have to use the Internet to search more information about different culture.

Furthermore, on the internet there are a lot of English films and documentaries about Chinese culture nowadays, such as *Wild China*, *Chinese on the Tongue*. Zhang and Wei (2012) argues that these co-product with the standard Chinese and English give a clear view on Chinese social and economic culture as well as natural landscape. These correct English expressions interpreted various Chinese cultural elements. In order to expand the students' knowledge and accurately expressions, students should be recommended to read some specific English works about Chinese culture and some of the classic Chinese literary works of the English version online. We can find the English version on the Internet as our learning materials to improve our ability in cross-cultural communication.

As the mainstream of oriental culture, Chinese culture will be more and more concerned. Cultivating students' ability to express Chinese culture in English is of great significance both for cross-cultural communication and social reality. Therefore, explaining Chinese cultural in English teaching, training students' language skills, nurturing national spirit, improving the quality of the national culture, enhancing national self-esteem, self-confidence and pride, will let students maintain their own cultural identity in intercultural communication and realize the real cross-cultural communication. We should use the internet to help us learn the traditional Chinese culture in cross-cultural communication

(5) Refine Internet environment and spread positive energy's Internet culture

English major college students' self-control ability is weak, the educators in colleges and universities should enhance the management of on-line behaviors of English major college students, should help them to understand that internet is just a method of helping them to study and live through daily education and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of internet, and should guide students to manage their on-line time reasonably and make them surf the Internet meaningfully. Chen (2007) argues that the government and society should establish sense of duty and filter the information which is released on the Internet. The whole society should enhance the construction of Internet system, build good internet environment and establish healthy, civilized and positive-energy Internet culture with joint efforts, making English major college students accept the positive influence of Internet better.

(6) Build campus culture, enrich the extracurricular life content of College Students

The school environment is one of the most important places for college students after school. Zhu (2008) had said with deep feeling: "the real valuable thing for college students is his living environment."(p.29). Schools should provide students with a beautiful campus environment, and create a harmonious atmosphere of campus culture, so that students feel the spirit of the university. Zhang (2013) argues that colleges and universities should intensify the construction of the second classroom and carry out rich and colorful campus cultural activities on campus. At the same time, they should carry out a high level of academic science and technology competition to promote competition practice, arouse students' interest in academic research, encourage students to participate in extra-curricular scientific research through the network competition and employment activities, mobilize the initiative of students and improve their overall quality.

The network has both advantages and disadvantages for college students. If we use it correctly, it will benefit us. If

we use it improperly, it will make us fall into an abyss and we can't even extricate ourselves. As college students, college life is the best time to learn knowledge and get into touch with new things. At this stage, students need to master a lot of information to enrich themselves. Li (2012) argues that the network is the source of these information and the best way to obtain information. Network allows students to learn a lot of knowledge which we can not learn in the books. But if students indulge in online games, it will therefore delay study. English majors students can relax themselves by surfing the internet properly and more time should be used to collect information and acquire new knowledge by using the Internet.

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