The Application of MOOCs in the Classroom Teaching

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Abstract

MOOCs, short for "massive open online courses," mark an important, possibly revolutionary, development in education. These courses are on line, free of charge, and open to anyone in the world who has a laptop and an Internet connection. MOOCs as a new way of teaching provides the teachers a new horizon and form to teach and think and also gives the students a platform to understand the knowledge and teaching through MOOCs.

Key words: MOOCs; Classroom teaching; Online; Application

INTRODUCTION

Moocs (Massive Open Oline Courses) are the latest addition to the acronym-bound lexicon of higher education, and quite possibly the most significant of them all. They represent a new generation of online education, freely accessible on the Internet and geared towards very large student numbers. The phenomenon has been likened by the president of Stanford University to "a digital tsunami", threatening to sweep aside conventional university education. Whether or not the rise of MOOCs will prove to warrant such hyperbole, there is no doubt that something very important is happening in the global system, raising profound questions about the very nature and future of higher education.

1. THE OVERTURN TO THE TRADITIONAL CLASS

As we all know, the traditional English teaching mode is not suitable for current English teaching. In this mode, teachers use a chalk and a textbook as the tool of teaching, which is simple and old. It focuses on the teaching of teachers and does not take students into consideration. There are 50% students failed in English, 44% in mathematics, while in the flipped classroom teaching, they decrease by 19% and 13% (Tina, 2010). However, modern English teaching also has this kind of problem. Although modern English teaching is involved multimedia, most of teachers write the contents of teaching on the courseware and let students copy on the notebooks. It ignores the participation and initiative of students in the class. The reason why teachers lack exchange with students is that they pursue teaching progress and they do not take teaching quality seriously. The exchange of teachers and students is the most important one. Some teachers let students master knowledge through a lot of mechanical trainings. In the class, teachers explain rules and principles of English knowledge and students listen to them and write down what they speak. Some teachers use the quantity of teaching to measure teaching efficiency and quality and think that they only plough into the teaching and the students will improve. In the traditional classroom teaching, students preview the courses aimlessly and teacher cannot learn about how much the students study before the class. And teachers only teach the new knowledge, while students accept the knowledge passively. During this process, teachers completely ignore the mental state of students. After class, students encounter some language points which they don't understand and they cannot be answered timely. However, whether the students receive knowledge or not is the most important point to measure the efficiency of teaching. Therefore, teachers will not only teach in the teaching process but also make eye contact with students and do

interaction. For example, let students answer questions or make lectures instead of teachers. Teachers not only complete teaching tasks but also let students learn real knowledge. Any knowledge which is only understood by learners has not received its goal. Moreover, teachers need to give students directions in order to infer the whole from a single instance.

MOOCs have their own strengths and weaknesses, we may use the good points to supplement the traditional face-to-face classroom teaching. Blended teaching is as a trend to be valued by more and more teachers, especially college English teachers. English teaching is different from other subjects. It focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing. If teachers can give students vivid pictures and more materials to help students to understand the contents of lessons, it not only broadens students' horizon, but also enhances the classroom capacity.

2. THE NEW FEATURES OF MOOCS

The reason why MOOCs attracts some many world's first-class universities is its internationalization, the influence among the universities and competitive power. MOOCs provide a platform among the universities to communicate, share, compete and develop. Through the power of information technology, it is easy to make the influence of a university all over the world. This platform not only shows the soft power, but also provides an opportunity to the universities to the first class.

To some extent, MOOCs are like a new form of teaching organization. It is the combination of education, entertainment and social network. Through the advanced technology and methods, the videos are just like the students being in the real classroom. It can give the students a good learning experience. Nowadays, MOOCs are mainly about the classroom videos. Designers of MOOCs have given up the traditional teaching courseware, teaching ideas which the learning of fragment. At the same time, the video is likely to stop and have the function of interactive functions in order to see whether the students have mastered or not. For teachers, the requirements for teachers' personal abilities are higher. And their teaching plans before the class have changed. Teaching designs should not only be limited to the design of contents of teaching. Teachers need to put the learning behaviors, learning process, learning psychology and learning feedback into the teaching design. The videos should be made on the basis of the criteria of the course and the level of the students. The role of teachers also changes in this process. In the traditional class, teachers often instill knowledge into the students from the beginning to the end. The teaching model of the flipped classroom lets teachers get rid of the traditional model and there are discussion sections in it. Students can accept the teaching guidance individually, which can indeed grasp the learning psychology and the state of students

3. BENEFITS OF MOOCS TO THE CLASSROOM TEACHING

Teachers need to focus on the interaction and exchange with students in English teaching. The cultivation of this ability requires that teachers should stimulate and arouse students in the class. Without teachers' exploitation, students themselves are difficult to improve. The forms of interaction and exchange can be various. For example, teachers can ask students some questions; students think about questions and ask teachers; teachers and students finish a task together. However, the examination of this ability relies on the performance of the students in the class. If students answer questions easily, it shows that students have already mastered well.

It is important for college to bring in new ways to have classes. College English teaching needs this new kind of teaching model. How to make the classroom English teaching more active and effective is a hot issue in college English teaching. The flipped classroom is the result of critical thinking to the college English teaching. The reform of college English teaching needs such kind of change in the model of classroom organization. The flipped classroom realizes the main position of students in class and the large and informative capacity of classroom teaching.

If teachers want to create a good environment for the students, they can do it from two aspects. One is in the class and the other is after class. In the class, teachers need to provide videos and prepare some questions for students. The questions come from teachers' continuous stimulation to the students in the class and create the connections which can proceed with intelligence participation. Students will take part in consciously in these connections. Interests are very important in this process. Teachers may use the forms of wall maps, multimedia or games to do heuristic teaching, not the traditional teaching model which teachers only teach according to textbooks. Doing in this kind of way can students have interests and be good at thinking. Moreover, teaching forms of teachers can be various. For example, it can be taught in the form of teaching, discussion or question-answering. Teachers can also make these forms in one class. And the class which is always changing will not be bored and dull. It is because the atmosphere of the class has already been mobilized by teachers and students. They would like to think about every question. Thus, teachers can finish their teaching tasks excellently and the integrative ability of students will improve.

MOOCs play an important role in blended teaching model. And blended teaching model cannot separate from micro-lectures and MOOCs. Only one form of teaching isn't suitable for the age of network. Although micro-lecture and MOOCs have their own strengths and weaknesses, we may use the good points to supplement the traditional face-to-face classroom teaching. Blended

teaching is as a trend to be valued by more and more teachers, especially college English teachers. English teaching is different from other subjects. It focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing. If teachers can give students vivid pictures and more materials to help students to understand the contents of lessons, it not only broadens students' horizon, but also enhances the classroom capacity.

Different kinds of teaching models help concentrate students' attention and stimulate their interests. Classroom teaching should not limit to one form and traditional classroom teaching is not applicable to the age of information technology. Students play cellphones and computers every day. They are easy to accept the fragment knowledge. Therefore, MOOCs' influence on them is large.

4. ADVICE FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

With the development of higher education, classroom teaching becomes more important and also faces the challenge, because the number of the students is expanded. The capacity of classes and groups is also becoming large. Thus, the classroom teaching that is based on traditional teaching mode1 is difficult to guarantee the teaching effect and efficiency. How to improve college English teaching to suit for large class is a hot issue faced by college manager and teachers. The course design for the blended teaching is to combine traditional classroom teaching with online teaching. This kind of teaching model can cope with some teaching difficulties. It can provide some expansive learning activities and more chances for feedbacks, help learners to finish some practical homework and promote the communication between groups and class in order to solve the problems of the large capacity of classes and improve the learning methods. Blended teaching is the new development in the network era.

There is no doubt that we try to accept the new things and experience them. MOOCs as a new form of classroom teaching are widely accepted by the teachers at home and abroad. However everything needs control in a limited range. MOOCs are not an universal way to classroom teaching. It sometimes is the supplement to the class. Traditional class also has its own advantages. We need to see which is more suitable to the teaching and students.

As for the students, learning is a tough job. Whether the traditional class or the class by using MOOCs or blended teaching, they need to master the important points and master the difficult points. Whether MOOCs, micro-lecture, open course ware or flipped classroom, all they need to learn knowledge. Students sometimes should not just look at the forms of teaching. Micro-lecture and MOOCs are the forms of operating blended teaching model. They are the most commonly used ways of teaching. Though micro-lecture and MOOCs, teachers put important and difficult points into them, which last short time. After the video, teachers can assign the homework or task for students to finish after class, which saves a lot of time and lets students have things to do. The good teaching effects cannot separate from teachers' teaching and students' learning. Both of these two aspects are always considered by the teaching reformers.

CONCLUSION

As we all know, MOOCs, short for "massive open online courses," mark an important, possibly revolutionary, development in education. These courses are on line, free of charge, and open to anyone in the world who has a laptop and an Internet connection. Moreover, they are mainly offered by great universities like Stanford, Berkeley, Harvard and Columbia. The courses are arranged according to how difficult they are, enabling students to progress from beginners to the advanced. The courses cover not only a broad range of science subjects such as math and computer science, but also courses in social sciences and humanities. Though MOOCs are not offered for credit and degree, many students enroll in the courses for real skills or knowledge which they can put to some practical use.

This new way of teaching provides the teacher a new horizon and form to teach and think and also gives the students a platform to understand the knowledge teaching through MOOCs. It is as a new thing still has space to improve. However, it indeed strengthens the influence of teaching and learning.

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