Exploration of Ideological and Political Education for English Majors in the Information Age

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Abstract: The growth of information technology has exerted profound significance on the modern education. On one hand, it provides increasingly ways to implement ideological and political education. On the other hand, it challenges the current ideological and political educators. Therefore, it is of great necessity to explore the ways of ideological and political education in the information technology. The paper is aimed to work out a systematic way to carry out ideological and political education by analyzing and combining information technology with modern education, especially for English majors.

1 Introduction

In the Information Age or Digital Age, information technologies have provided us with various mediums to get timely information and express opinions, which is impossible in the past. In recent years, it’s obvious that some new media approaches, such as Weibo, WeChat, WeChat Public Number and so on, have become an indispensable part of our daily life and academic study. As the main group of media users, university students are more easily exposed to a complicated environment, with all kinds of information, right and wrong, positive and negative. This has invisibly challenged the ideological and political education in universities. In the era of rapid development of the information media, for ideological and political education in colleges and universities, how to accurately grasp the opportunity of “We Media”, scientific and rational use of Wemedia to innovate ideological and political education work is the focus of ideological and political education in colleges and universities[1].

In the National College Ideological and Political Work Conference, President Xi has pointed that to do a good job of ideological and political work in colleges and universities, it is necessary to change things due to events, advance from time to time, and take advantage of new situations. In the meantime, President Xi also emphasized that it is necessary to use new media and new technologies to make the work alive, promote the traditional advantages of ideological and political work to be highly integrated with information technology, and enhance the sense of the times and attraction. We can safely draw a conclusion that it is an irreversible trend to combine the information technology with the ideological and political education. Just as Secretary of Party Committee of Central South University, Gao Wenbing has said that whoever wins the Internet, whoever wins the youth.[2]

In a world, it is the new requirement for a new era to implement more effective and attractive ideological and political education with giving full play to the information technology.

2 Impacts and Reflection of Information Technology on Ideological Education

2.1 Opportunities for Ideological and Political Education

To begin with, with the advent of new media, the ideological and political educators can understand students’ status in time. Nowadays, students often show their feelings or express their ideas towards something in Weibo, WeChat, QQ or other medias. If the educators don’t use these new media tools, they may miss and ignore some information related to students. It seems that educators who use or often contact and interact with students in these tools have an advantage over
those who not. For they can grasp as much as possible useful information from what students perform on the media platforms. For example, if a student, who feels upset and desperate because of some unpleasant experiences, such as failure in an exam, sends a circle of friends and expresses his or her emotion, the educator can know it, pay attention to it, chat with the student, or just say something inspiring in the comment area. All the actions will do good to ease the student’s negative emotions. It is also a good way to guide the student to establish a correct world outlook on life values.

Secondly, combined with the information technology, the ideological and political education will be more attractive and effective. It’s a common phenomenon that some university students have little interest in the ideological and political education classes, in which they do homework or just play telephone. It is a pity both for teachers and for students. However, if the ideological and political educators can work out some innovative methods to teach the students in class and apply some new media approach after class, more students will be attracted by it and the after-class activities will make it has a better effect. For example, the vivid short stories or movies spread on media are good channels.

Last but not least, with the widely use of information technology, the relationship between teachers and students will become closer and closer. In this way, students will be affected by their teachers’ words and behaviors, which is also an assisted method of ideological and political education.

2.2 The Challenge of Ideological and Political Education

Faced with the improvement of information technology, the ideological and political education work has encountered challenges. On one head, the complex information environment tends to lead students to a wrong path and exert negative effects on their values, for some negative attitudes may penetrate into students’ heart and students will read the information from their angel of view. Educators should take the interpretation of incidents of cyber opinion as the content and subject of undergraduate’s ideological and political education, thus to help them deeply know the national conditions and the actual social and economic development, leading them to face society around them and improving their theoretical quality and ability to solve practical problems in an all-round way so as to heighten the actual effect of ideological and political education in universities[3]. On the other hand, in order to adapt to the new era, the ideological and political educators have to make some adjustments on the methods of educating and make a proper combination of information technology and the ideological and political education, adding the sense of the times and the infectious power. During the process of improvement, the ideological and political educators should consider factors as comprehensive as possible, such as the major, the gender, the personal character, the educational content and the feasibility.

2.3 Personality of Ideological and Political Education in English Majors

As language learners, English majors have some typical features in the information age. One is that they are more easily to be exposed to world news and be influenced by foreign culture and thoughts. Therefore, they need to be more sensitive and improve the ability to tell information they get. Before making a judgment, especially on the world news, they’d better search for some background knowledge and make an alternate thinking in values of that country. They need to know the culture differences behind the different languages. The other is that language leaning is essential for language learners. Therefore, publish some bilingual books, make some bilingual stories or others can also implement the ideological and political education invisibly and make full use of their professional knowledge. Besides, most English majors are girls. They may have some psychological problems and it is also a factor should be considered.

2.4 Ways of Ideological and Political Education for English Majors in the Information Age

Take all the factors into consideration, there are some useful and beneficial ways of ideological and political education for English majors in the information age. Firstly, make best use of Weibo and WeChat in the field of ideological and political education. University students usually spend a lot of time on Weibo and WeChat. Thus, by using them, we can not only get information of students timely, but also can release some important cases and brief comments on them in order to guide
them to the right direction. Either a humorous story or a formal article, with the feature of briefness and convenience, will play a key role in the ideological and political education. Secondly, it is a good way to design micro and vivid classes on ideological and political in bilingual language, then film and release these micro classes on Weibo, WeChat or other network platforms. These micro classes will appeal more students and the bilingual language is beneficial for their major learning. Thirdly, the ideological and political educators can cooperate with English teachers and write some books with real stories as well as the ideological and political meaning. In the meanwhile, teachers and students can learn some translation skills and memorize some useful expressions by reading government work report bilingual edition or other official documents. Xi Jinping Talks about Managing State Affairs is a good choice. In the English version of the book, we can grasp some new words in the new era and some translation of verses and proverbs. Fourthly, building bilingual radio stations can be added to the ideological and political education. It’s a better choice for those who have not enough time to read books or watch micro classes. Even on the way, they can listen to the radio, knowing something about the city, the country and the world. Besides, the ideological and political education can integrate with the academic researches and projects. During the process, students will be influenced by teachers’ thought and papers’ logic, which is a beneficial and effective for students to form correct values.

3 Conclusion

Above all mentioned analysis, in the information age, it is an urge to strengthen ideological and political education with advanced information technology. Only in this way, can the ideological and political education adapt to the new era, make better use of the new technology and achieve better effects. Meanwhile, it is also necessary to combine the major characteristics together. Keep path with the new era and utmost play the role of the ideological and political education.

Reference


[2] Cao Wenze, Let the ideological and political work in colleges live up, People’s Daily, February 13th 2017, 07