

The Application of FiF Oral Training System in Oral English Teaching of Non-English Majors

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Abstract: With the rapid development of AI, Internet+ and Big Data, the students cultivated with the traditional models of instruction can't meet the needs of this new age. In order to improve the qualities of the students, Leshan Normal University has taken the advantage of the FiF Oral Training System in oral English teaching, which is based on the international leading intelligent voice technology invented by Beijing FiF Education Technology Co., Ltd. It has aroused greatly the interest of non-English majors. At the same time the teachers' awareness of scientific research has been stimulated and their abilities of research have also been improved.

Keywords: Application, AI, FiF, Oral English Teaching, Non-English Majors.

1. PREFACE

According to W. M. River and M. S. Temperly, the two well-known foreign language teaching experts in the United States, 75% of the information we get when communicating comes from listening and speaking. Reading and writing only account for 16% and 9% respectively. It's obvious that listening and speaking play a decisive role among the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. They are the foundation in communication. However, oral English is not tested in the college entrance examination. To make matters worse, our society and employers only pay attention to the written test scores of CET 4 and CET 6 in the recruitment of talents. As a result, most students ignore oral English training, causing their poor pronunciation and intonation and Chinglish oral presentation. Although they have learned English for years, students can't communicate well in English. So their oral English needs to be improved. But the fact is that teachers can't give every student an opportunity to practise in class due to limited teaching hours, heavy tasks and crowded students. College English teachers have been struggling to find ways to improve students' oral English. To our delight, the FiF Oral Training System developed by Beijing FiF Education Technology Co., Ltd. finally helped us a lot in solving this problem.

2. INTRODUCTION OF FiF ORAL TRAINING SYSTEM

The FiF Oral Training System, based on the leading intelligent voice technology of the Beijing FiF Education Technology Co., Ltd. is supported by professional oral intelligence assessment training content and multi-terminal oral teaching and management system. It can provide a large number of teaching materials regarding listening and speaking, which contain texts and audio formats, textbook-style system introductions and classroom real-time videos (some videos even provide subtitles). There are also static teaching content introductions, and online interactions between students and teachers, including both introductions of new content, practice and test of learned content, as well as formative reports on students' learning and development. The system helps teachers use the new information technology to effectively carry out listening and speaking teaching activities in teaching feedback, teaching content, teaching achievements and mobile teaching. It breaks through the limitations of traditional classrooms, helps students to practice multi-disciplinary content in real-world, and obtains feedback on real-time intelligent evaluation. The design of the incentive learning model and the atmosphere of peer learning can stimulate students' internal motivation, help schools explore the construction of college English listening and speaking based on the new information technology, and establish a targeted teaching model. Students and teachers can use it to practice oral English or check the study progress both through computers and through the mobile app. anytime and anywhere.

3. RELATED BACKGROUND OF THE APPLICATION OF FiF

National Medium and Long-term Educational Reform and Development Project (2010-2020) indicates that "Information technology has a revolutionary impact on the development of education and must be given high priority." Promoting education modernization with educational informationization, solving the problems that impede the development of education in China, and encouraging innovation and reform of education are major strategic options to accelerate the transition from a big education country to an education power. *The Ten-year Development Planning of Education Informationization (2011-2020)* clearly proposes the fast digital transformation of courses and majors, the innovation of information-based teaching and learning methods, the improvement of personalized and interactive teaching, so as to create new talent training models to cultivate talents. The construction of FiF cloud learning platform is in line with the development of a new round of college English teaching reform. It integrates information technology and oral English teaching perfectly and is committed to the innovation and transformation of oral teaching with information technology, highlighting the initiative, mobility and timeliness of modern learning methods. We are supposed to use the network resources from big data to establish a diversified oral English teaching and learning environment as a way to adapt to the learning characteristics and styles of college students in this new era, making English classroom teaching and extracurricular autonomic learning organically combined to cultivate students' good language

practice habits and initiative, which has given rise to the use of the FiF Oral Training System since March 2017 by non-English majors of Leshan Normal University.

4. THE APPLICATION OF FIF IN LESHAN NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Three semesters has passed since the college English teachers and non-English majors in Leshan Normal University began to use the FiF Oral Training System in March 2017. Students are required to complete at least 10 oral practice tasks each semester on the FiF Oral Training System. The average score of the 10 tasks serve as the student's oral scores for the semester and is included in the final exam scores, accounting for 20%.

The FiF Oral Training Platform is rich in training content with multidimensional systems on a certain scale according to the degree of difficulty. The content systems such as exams, life language, and basic skills are graded based on the standards of the European Union.

From March 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, a total number of 12,698 users have registered for the FiF Oral Training System. The cumulative online time is 393, 155,12 minutes and the cumulative times of access is 754310. More details are as follows:

Chart 1 Foundation Data on Teacher Users

Custom Time 2017/03/01 to 2018/06/30			
Total Number of Teacher Users	Cumulative Number of Active Users	Cumulative Online Time (mins)	Cumulative Times of Access
57	50	51149 Average : (mins) 1022	4123 Average : 82

Chart 2 Data on Teaching Activity

Custom Time 2017/03/01 to 2018/06/30		
Total Number of Assigned Tasks	Total Number of Assigned Exercises	Total Number of Self-designed Exercises
1280 Average:25	8889 Average:177	433 Average: 8

Chart 3 Foundation Data on Student Users

Custom Time 2017/03/01 to 2018/06/30			
Total Number of Student Users	Cumulative Number of Active Users	Cumulative Online Time (mins)	Cumulative Times of Access
12641	11108	39264363 Average: (mins) 3534	750187 Average : 67

Chart 4 Data on Students' Learning Activity

Custom Time		2017/03/01 to 2018/06/30																									
Cumulative Length of Recording	Cumulative numbers of Completed Exercises	<table border="1"> <caption>Score Distribution Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Score Range</th> <th>Number of Students</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Without Learning</td><td>41</td></tr> <tr><td>0-9</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>10-19</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>20-29</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>30-39</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>40-49</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>50-59</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>60-69</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>70-79</td><td>1368</td></tr> <tr><td>80-89</td><td>9272</td></tr> <tr><td>90-100</td><td>1872</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Score Range	Number of Students	Without Learning	41	0-9	1	10-19	0	20-29	0	30-39	1	40-49	5	50-59	6	60-69	75	70-79	1368	80-89	9272	90-100	1872
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Average : (mins) 166	Average :100																										
Average Score 84																											

5. ACHIEVEMENTS ACQUIRED SINCE THE APPLICATION OF FiF

Both the teachers and the students have achieved greatly since the application of the FiF Oral Training System.

5.1 Achievements of Students

FiF has aroused students' interest in English learning. Thus their speaking ability and comprehensive skills have been improved greatly. Here are some examples.

5.1.1 Students' active participation in College Oral English Performance Competition

In order to test the effect of the FiF Oral Platform since it came into service, Leshan Normal University has successfully held two sessions of the College Oral English Performance Competition respectively in June 2017 and May-June 2018. English and My Major, English and My Work were listed as the competition themes in 2017 where the according forms are specified as live performance and microfilm projection. The preliminary contest covered 241 programs and about 1,500 students of great passion, which embodied the strong connection between their English learning, majors and career planning, showing a creative and wonderful picture.

College Oral English Performance Competition in 2018 went both online and offline, and the online competition, which comprises four parts including reading, questions answering, personal statement and discussion lasted almost one month. It has an automatic grading system where all students have access to feedback such as the pronouncing accuracy, completeness and fluency. In addition, students can improve their oral English by repeated practice. 3,172 students in Leshan Normal University participated in the FiF Online Competition and about 1,000 students were involved in the offline competition that included 139 programs. And the final programs demonstrated a time travel and Sino-West blend. The candidates have performed wonderful language skills and exaggerated acting technique, winning the applause of judges and audience.

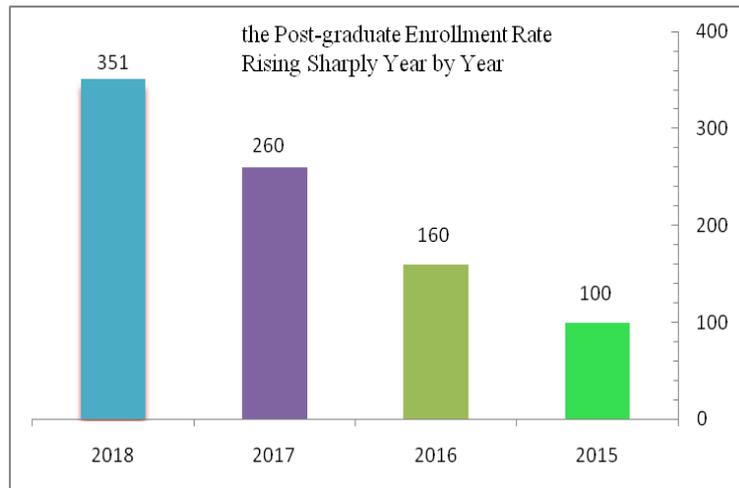
5.1.2 Students' active participation in the College English Tests

There are 4,800 vacancies authorized to take the National College English Test Band 4 in Leshan Normal University, which has never been fully registered until June 2018 when lots of

students failed to sign up due to the over-subscription. It clearly shows that the number of students who value English learning and College English Tests is increasing.

5.1.3 Yearly increase of postgraduate enrollment rate of non-English majors

English has always been a barrier for college students to study further. Many students' dreams for being a postgraduate are broken because of their poor English. Since the application of the FiF Oral Training System, students' enthusiasm for graduate school has increased significantly, so has the number of applicants and admission rate. The specifics about postgraduate enrollment rate in Leshan Normal University during the latest four years are as follows.



5.2 Achievements of Teachers

Besides students, teachers have also benefited a lot from FiF. They have combined teaching with scientific research and improved their abilities of scientific research.

In the process of using the FiF platform, the teachers actively and carefully studied the relevant education and teaching theories, and constantly explored new teaching models and teaching methods with hard work. Up to now, college English teachers have declared 3 research subjects related to the use of the FiF platform, and have published 2 related research papers. Another 2 papers have been reviewed and will be issued in recent journals. The use of the FiF platform has aroused the teachers' scientific research consciousness, which has better proved that scientific research is the "source of living water" in teaching, and teaching is the "invisible power" of scientific research. College classroom teaching will lose the "soul" without support of scientific research. The famous scientist Weichang Qian once pointed out that "teaching is soulless education lacking insights without scientific research basis." In the course of lessons preparation, teachers are supposed to read a large number of research materials related to the curriculum, which will prompt teachers to think deeply about professional issues. Perhaps during the discussion with the students, the teachers will gain new research inspiration. As we know, teaching can be a powerful driving force for scientific research.

6. CONCLUSION

With the gradual improvement of intelligent speech technology, mobile internet, cloud computing and Big Data, it turned out that building an efficient multi-dimensional colleague

English teaching model and an ecological English teaching and learning environment is vital. It has become an efficient path to improve the effectiveness and quality of college English teaching by exploring the in-depth integration and innovative application of mobile internet and AI tech in the field of higher education of foreign language teaching. In March 2017, 'AI' was first written into the government work report of Two Sessions of China. In July the State Council of the People's Republic of China officially issued *the New Generation of Artificial Intelligence Development Project* (hereinafter referred to as *the Project*) and "AI" has officially been upgraded to China's national strategy. *The Project* indicates that it is necessary to speed up the innovative application of AI technology in education by using intelligent technology to accelerate the reformation of talent training model and teaching method, building a new pattern of education system including intelligent learning and interactive learning. Intelligent campus will be developed and the application of AI tech will be promoted in the entire process of teaching, management and resource construction. FiF, a wonderful oral training system, can help teachers to use new information technology to carry out oral teaching activities effectively in aspects of teaching feedback, teaching content, teaching achievement and mobile teaching. It has broken through the limitations of traditional model of oral English teaching and stimulated students' intrinsic learning motivation. Furthermore, it helps students to practise multi-domain oral content in live operational training and get real-time intelligent evaluation feedback, which can improve students' oral English and comprehensive English skills effectively.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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