Chapter 59
Task–Oriented Internet Assisted English Teaching and Learning in Colleges

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ABSTRACT

Task-Oriented Internet Assisted English Teaching and Learning (TIAETL) is a new English teaching and learning model which integrates the Internet-assisted and task-oriented teaching. This article analyzed the worldwide tendency of English teaching and prerequisites for TIAETL in colleges. The TIAETL has the following advantages: student-centeredness, convenience and flexibility, communicativeness and applicability, informativeness, comprehensiveness and motivation. In the TIAETL, human factor, technology and facility factor, and internet activity determine the success of TIAETL. The commonly-used internet activities include browsing the Internet, emailing, chatting, blogging, and so on. In the form of accomplishing Net tasks, students develop their English listening, speaking, reading, writing, translation and raise crosscultural awareness through the Internet. Finally the article expounded the implementation of TIAETL in detail from the aspects of preparation, learning resources, task, time, check and evaluation. It's expected that this article arouses the interest in the researches on and practice of TIAETL in foreign language education and thus promotes English teaching and learning.

1. INTRODUCTION

With the development of modern technology and economic growth, the computer has become increasingly popular and indispensable in people's daily lives. Almost every family in Chinese urban areas and nearly one third in Chinese rural area own at least one personal computer in their homes. And these computers are mostly connected through the Internet. Obviously, the Internet has emerged as a prominent new technology in China. The influence of such a powerful technological tool has pervaded all aspects of the education, business, culture, administration and economy (Singhal M, 1997). For example, nowadays an increasing number of people are accustomed to shopping online instead of going to regular stores, and

they tend to obtain information and learn online. Whether we use the Internet or not, we must be aware of the fact that we have entered a new information age and the Internet is everywhere in our daily lives.

Along with the popularity of network in numerous fields and domains, the Internet also carries great potential for educational use, especially, for second and foreign language education. As is put in a document in China, "English teaching model in colleges and universities should be reformed. New college English teaching model should be built on modern information technology, in particular, the network technology, so that English language teaching and learning is, to a certain extent, free from the constraints of time or place, and geared towards students' individualized and autonomous learning(*College English Curriculum Requirements*, 2007)." It can be predicted that in the near future, foreign language teaching and learning will mainly be conducted online, just like the shopping trend in China. Thus the Internet assisted foreign language learning will become one of the mainstream teaching and learning models in Chinese foreign language education, and it will greatly improve the efficiency and proficiency of foreign language teaching and learning.

2. TASK-ORIENTED INTERNET ASSISTED ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING

2.1. Internet

the Internet, also referred to as the Net, is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to serve several billion users worldwide. It is a network that consists of millions of private, public, academic, business, and government networks, of local to global scope, which are linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless and optical networking technologies. the Internet carries an extensive range of information resources and services, such as the inter-linked hypertext documents of the World Wide Web (WWW), the infrastructure to support email, and peer-to-peer networks (retrieved from the Wiki Web). the Internet allows greater flexibility in working hours and location, especially with the spread of unmetered high-speed connections. the Internet can be accessed almost anywhere by numerous means, including through mobile internet devices. Mobile phones, datacards, handheld game consoles and cellular routers allow users to connect to the Internet wirelessly (George, 2006).

The Internet is an important medium that provides the potential for purposeful and powerful use of online communication in listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Warschauer, 2000). It's estimated that 85% of electronically stored information in the world is in English, so surfing the Internet and searching for the social, economic, cultural, educational information on the Internet is itself a process of language learning and use. Therefore, the Internet can be considered as an ideal English learning and application tool.

2.1. Task-Oriented Internet Assisted Language Teaching and Learning

As for the Internet assisted language teaching and learning, in early 1990s, Meagher, M. E. (1995), Moore, P. (1996), Muehleisen, V. (1997), Ryder, R. J., & Graves, M. F. (1997), Singhal, M. (1997), Smith, B. (1997), Daugherty, M., & Funke, B. L. (1998), Son, J.-B. (1998), et al. made a lot of researches on the Internet and language teaching and learning. Then in the early 21st century, Kern, R., & Warschauer,

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