On the Importance and Teaching Strategies of Grammar Teaching in College English Class

Haiyan Zhu¹, Yanqing Peng²
¹Teaching Department of Basic Courses, Shandong Institute of Commerce and Technology
²Department of General Education, Army Engineering University of PLA.

Abstract: English grammar is a series of language rules, which is the basis of English language. Grammar learning is of great importance to English listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation skills. Therefore, grammar teaching in College English class is particularly important when there is no separate grammar course. This paper discusses the importance of grammar teaching and some grammar teaching strategies, aiming at promoting the development of College English teaching and improving students’ English language level.

Keywords: College English; Grammar teaching; Teaching strategies

DOI: 10.47297/wspci/WSP2516-252720.20200411

1. Introduction

Grammar is the basic module of English language, which constitutes the basic framework of English together with vocabulary. Words are organized according to certain grammatical rules to form sentences, and then the paragraphs and passages. A solid foundation of grammar is necessary for the improvement of English skills. But the colleges won’t set up English grammar course for the vast majority of students besides the undergraduates majoring in English, which has caused certain difficulties for the continuous learning and improvement of students. Therefore, we cannot give up the teaching and learning of grammar after entering the college. Teachers should infiltrate grammar teaching into College English class.

About the author: Haiyan Zhu (1982-01), Female, Han, Dongying City, Shandong Province, Lecturer, Master, Research on English Teaching and British and American Literature. Yanqing Peng (1982-02), Female, Han, Linyi City, Shandong Province, Lecturer, Master, Research on English Teaching and British and American Literature.
2. The Importance of Grammar Teaching in College English Class

(1) The Benefits of Grammar Teaching to the Improvement of Reading Ability

The infiltration of grammar teaching into College English class is of great benefit to the continuous improvement of students’ reading ability. Reading comprehension accounts for a large proportion in all kinds of examinations, so improving reading ability is very important for English learning. Our understanding of the article is not only the understanding of the vocabulary, but also the understanding of the grammatical structure. Sometimes we can understand all the words in a sentence, but we just can’t understand the sentence correctly. The fundamental reason is that we don’t understand the grammatical rules contained in it. Take a simple example: An artist and editor is going to give us a lecture about painting. Many students may understand it as: an artist and an editor will give us a lecture on painting. They think that the subject of the sentence is two people. In the above example, without the interference of new words, the reason why some students still can’t understand the sentence correctly is that they don’t master the grammatical point of “subject-verb concord”. Through the form of predicate verb, we can judge that the subject is just one person, that is, an artist and editor (the artist is also an editor). Therefore, mastering grammar expertly can help us understand sentences, paragraphs and even passages correctly, thus to improve our reading ability continuously. Therefore, it is of vital importance to infiltrate grammar teaching into College English class.

(2) The Benefits of Grammar Teaching to the Improvement of Writing Ability

The infiltration of grammar teaching into College English class is beneficial to the improvement of students’ writing ability. If a student has a weak grammar foundation, he or she will not be able to form a sense of English language and has no concept of the integrity and simplicity of sentences. So, it is easy for the student to write incomplete sentences or sentences with redundant components. For example: Except the fact that she is lazy, I like her. In the above sentence,“that” leads to an appositive clause. Based on the principle of simplicity and clarity, this sentence can be changed into: Except her laziness, I like her. In addition, the mastery of grammatical knowledge, such as subject-verb concord, the tenses, voices of verbs and various types of clauses, is also crucial to the accurate expression in writing. Grammar is the guarantee of correct and effective expression. Therefore, having clear lexical and syntactic concepts are very important for students to write good articles.

3. Grammar Teaching Strategies in College English Class

(1) Attaching Great Importance to the Explanation of Syntax

In College English class, teachers should attach great importance to the explanation of syntax to improve students’ comprehension. The sentences of
English and Chinese are organized according to different word order. In the process of explaining the text, teachers should explain the organization of sentence, analyze the syntactic structure and guide students to find out the framework of sentence, thus to grasp the sentence as a whole, and quickly understand the sentence. Then, teachers should carefully analyze the various components of the sentence and their grammatical functions, so that students can grasp the sentence from the details. In addition to the teacher’s explanation, students are also required to practice sentence analysis, so, in reading comprehension, students can quickly and accurately grasp the information of the article. At the same time, the analysis of sentence structure is also helpful to students’ writing, which enables them to express their ideas completely and accurately with the help of grammar knowledge.

(2) Reducing the Influence of Mother Tongue on English Grammar Learning

Teachers should try to reduce the influence of mother tongue on English learning and avoid grammatical errors in English writing. Since English and Chinese are two different language systems, we can’t put Chinese sentence patterns and expression habits into English. Sometimes, sentences like “If someone’s family situation is not well, he can apply for loan to bank”, “let alone touch the outside world of campus”, “keep a good body health”, etc. will appear in students’ compositions. These three sentences are expressed in English according to the Chinese expression habit. The following are the correct expressions. “If one’s family is not well off, he can apply to the bank for a loan.” “Let alone get in touch with the world outside of the campus.” “keep fit”. In order to reduce the influence of Chinese on English learning, we can adopt the method of contrast in grammar teaching to make students understand and realize the differences between Chinese and English in ways of thinking, sentence patterns and expression habits. Therefore, students can firmly grasp the rules of English grammar, and write correct and authentic English articles.

(3) Creating a Lively and Interesting English Grammar Class

Grammar learning is rather boring. Simple explanation of grammar cannot stimulate students’ interest in learning, nor can it achieve the effect of learning. Therefore, teachers must find some ways to create a lively and interesting grammar class. First of all, teachers can create a variety of grammar learning situations for students with the help of rich resources, such as a large number of pictures, grammar learning videos and flash animation, so that students can learn, analyze and summarize grammar rules in observation and experience, and gradually form their own grammar knowledge system. Secondly, in the process of grammar teaching, teachers cannot explain the rules step by step. They should be good at using humorous language to create a good class atmosphere and increase students’ interest in grammar learning. In the process of explanation, teachers can also give some humorous and interesting examples or examples around students to attract students’ attention. Interesting examples will make students understand and master
grammar rules better, and make students become active in grammar learning, which will receive better learning effect.

4. Conclusion

Grammar is the basis of English learning. Learning grammar well can improve students’ language application ability and enhance their confidence in language learning. College English teachers should fully realize the importance of English grammar teaching and explore effective teaching methods to create a lively and interesting classroom atmosphere that students enjoy. We must give full play to the role of grammar in improving students’ listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation skills, and highlight the value of grammar learning.

References


