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New Trends of English Teaching in Outstanding Engineers' Education

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Abstract

English has become more important to learn than ever before with the development of the world. And English teaching is one of the necessary growing areas in outstanding engineers' training education. The purpose of this paper is to discuss some issues associated with the new trends of English teaching when it comes to outstanding engineers' education. The paper tries to give information about the requirements of outstanding engineers' education for English teaching, and is also mentioned training English applicable skills, combination of professional knowledge, and development of faculty, which attribute English teachers to make educational environment more enjoyable. Outstanding engineers' education provides various new possibilities and latest trends both for teachers and students.

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1. Preface

Outstanding engineers' profession has proposed a road map by directly putting the impact on economic growth through various means such as technology, learning, access and quality. It is envisaged that to maintain quality human resource in professional engineering education requires focusing. This would foster outstanding engineering education at all levels. Meanwhile, English has become more important to learn than ever before with the development of the world. English is the only valid language that can be

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understood by everyone all around the world. So it can be said that English has been as an ideal language for the expression of feelings and using the technology.

English teaching is one of the necessary growing areas in outstanding engineers' training education. Moreover, English teaching is also vital to identify achievements and goals through the outstanding engineers' education and to attain students' learning outcomes of a foreign language in accordance with both institutional and professional criteria. One of the major concerns for English teaching in outstanding engineers' education is that in the developing countries (i.e., China) the accredited body constitutes at the national level are striving hard to set out uniform, transparent and precise accreditation models. However, in order to gain global acceptance, there is a great need to explore possibility of mutual recognition and global mobility of engineers. Therefore, as English teachers and researchers, we have to face such new trends and take a new look at English teaching. If engineering students are trained applicably and professionally in English during their school years, they would have the chance of becoming excellent experts in technology.

2. Requirements of outstanding engineers' education for English teaching

Global Engineering Excellence puts forward three main points, which can be concluded as following: first of all, engineers will act a dominantly important role when dealing with global problems such as continuous development and international safety, etc. Secondly, due to the globalization of engineering practice, engineers need to widely cooperate together in the fields of the world. Thirdly, to train global engineers, this is the teamwork of government, industry, academy and some organizations related with engineering. It's vitally meaningful that industry provides practicing opportunities for engineering students in the world. At the same time, global study on engineering education is urgent. These can show the importance of English use in engineering students' studies and their future careers, which results in new requirements for English teaching in outstanding engineers' education.

3. Improvement of English applicable skills

New trends need English teaching in profession more applicable such as in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and translating skills of students. Outstanding engineers' education provides various new possibilities and latest trends for teachers and students. It is widely accepted that improvement of English applicable skills will be in favor of having advantage for our engineering students, esp. in the international enterprises. Good English applicable skills in learning and using information technology and new developments provide more expedient opportunities. English communicative events and skills are needed at the working place. So we should improve engineering students' reading skills by reading more English books and English materials about engineering fields, especially the original ones to expand vocabularies and to improve sense of spoken English. Speaking with native English speakers can help them become familiar with some words and phrases people use in daily English. Listening skills can be promoted by watching more English movies and listening English songs. For writing, try to write some short paragraphs at the beginning and then use the reading materials to write some longer papers or articles. With the aid of reading materials, translation can also be trained well.

4. Combination of professional knowledge

After basic training students' foreign language in the practice of professional skills, foreign applicable and professional teaching should be strengthened. The effective method is to teach English in practice, bring engineering students to the factories, give lessons there and train them in English in practice. Thus

students have more chances to learn professional knowledge and experience the job they may do in the future, which is vivid for them, and hence, it is easy for them to understand the professional knowledge. At the same time, they can know about the working environment, analyzing and solving problems, communicating with the elder and senior engineers, and ability to work in a team. Combination of professional knowledge in English teaching in outstanding engineers' education has become an increasing concern and is recognized by factories.

5. Training ability of self-learning

We have to learn all the time in our life and renew our knowledge to follow the development of the technology and satisfy the needs of the age. We can train engineering students to be creative and sustainable development. As individuals, teachers and students have to gain the ability of self-learning and long-life learning. Those who don't often improve their skills and knowledge may find themselves out of date, even out of jobs. Therefore, we need to learn current skills and knowledge in order not to get left behind times. We may not only learn in the classroom and should not stop learning after leaving the classroom. We can read professional magazines, related journals, and papers, search information on net, ask questions, and attend in-service training programs; we can join associations and attend conference to know the latest trends; we can make full use of internet, distant education, e-learning and air class to find the extensive and changeable learning opportunity. Training ability of self-learning may enable us to learn more and more knowledge and useful skills at any place and at any time. This is a usefully beneficial lifelong learning ways.

6. Development of faculty

Frankly speaking, nowadays university English teachers do not have any engineering knowledge. Besides, most of professional teachers are not good at English teaching. Consequently, there is a serious deficiency in professional English teaching. And how to connect these two courses is still a new project for our teachers to study. Both English teachers and professional teachers should learn from each other. Schools may encourage our young teachers to learn some engineering professional knowledge, even though it is a tough job for the young teachers. Studying abroad and working in the foreign countries are very useful for us to learn of the world. Adopting foreign advanced teaching ideas and methods can make up for the old and being relatively backward teaching situation. In addition, engineering personnel who have foreign learning and working experiences are firstly introduced into our educational system. We can help and encourage teaching staff to carry out study on excellent engineering education. This is another new challenge.

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