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On the Advantages of Computer Multimedia-aided English Teaching

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Abstract

With the development of science and technology, computer multimedia has been used widely in every aspect, especially in English teaching. With the combination of computer multimedia and English teaching, English class teaching is no longer boring but full of fun. On one hand, the computer multimedia-assisted English teaching can inspire students' enthusiasm of learning English, optimize the environment of English class. On the other hand, the computer multimedia-assisted English teaching can improve students' ability of listening and speaking, develop students' ideas in English, and improve students' enthusiasm for communication. Students can learn knowledge and skills in a good environment. The computer multimedia-assisted English teaching has become one of the highlights in English teaching. To make the students improve their ability in the process of learning English, its distinctive teaching characteristics and teaching environment has been welcomed by the majority of teachers and students. It is also a noticeable focus in the teaching reform, which plays an important role in students' learning English.

Key Words: multimedia; English teaching; classroom application

1. Introduction

Multimedia, a form of computer science, refers to the combination of two or more than two media. The fact is that multimedia is a unity of media and a reasonable coordination of media instead of a simple combination of a variety of media to show information and enhance people's understanding and memory of information.[1] There exists an amount of characteristics in multimedia, including diversity, integration and interaction. Among them, interaction is the most important one.

In 1950s, the computer was invented. At first, computers could only recognize the binary code, gradually developed into a certain system which can deal with tests and simple graphics and had the hidden abilities which

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could help people to settle down more complicated information. With the development of science and technology, in 1970s, there appeared the trend of the electronic media combined with broadcasting, publishing and computer, which rapidly created a good condition for the formation of multimedia. Computers can not only make the information processed in the means of standardization but also make the information processed in the way of diversification and humanization, especially in the fields where multimedia technology and network communication technology are combined.[2] Furthermore, the application of multimedia technology has been accelerated in economy, science, technology, education, health, culture, media, entertainment, music and other fields. Multimedia technology has already become one of the dominant technologies in the information society, and the combination of media technology and network communication technology has produced the video, phone and so on. The application of these technologies has changed people's lifestyles and habits, and it will continue to have an impact on human life, study and work. By the middle of 1990s, the multimedia as a new kind of technology has attracted people's attention in primary and secondary education, because by using multimedia technology, students' interest in learning can be improved and by using useful and auxiliary teaching tools, teachers' teaching tasks become much easier and teachers' passion in teaching is recalled.[3] Therefore, a new subject, computer multimedia teaching, is coming.

2. The Analysis of Computer Multimedia Technology

In 2002, China began a new era of English teaching reform and it is the most important part that the multimedia assisted English teaching in this reform. The multimedia not only played a role in our life, but also helped teachers teach the students.

2.1 The Multimedia Teaching

With the development of multimedia technology, multimedia-assisted English teaching has become an inevitable trend. It uses computer or other multimedia ways to assist English class teaching and uses pictures and videos to teach new knowledge so that students can get new knowledge and study great skills in a fun environment. Multimedia-assisted English teaching has its own specific definition and theories, which include: constructivism learning theory, cognitive psychology, humanistic psychology and so on.[4]

Constructivism learning theory: The environment of learning should be " a place where learners may work together and support each other as they use a variety of tools and information resources in their guided pursuit of learning goals and problem-solving activities." By using multimedia, learners can cooperate with each other in the learning process, which can form an effective stimulation in learning process so that students can improve their quality of learning.

Cognitive psychology: The cognitive psychology emphasizes the internal psychological process of learners. It is a long process that students study English, so teachers need to be a leader of studying activities. Multimedia-assisted English teaching can create a good learning condition and environment for students. It stimulates learning motivation of students and provides reasonable strategies, so as to improve skills of English learning.

Humanistic psychology: The humanistic psychology explores language teaching from psychology. It emphasizes dignity and value of human. (1) The humanistic psychology can pay attention to the development of learners. (2) The humanistic psychology can advocate the process of learning. (3) The humanistic psychology can emphasize the importance of learning. The teacher's task is not to decide what the students should learn, but to discover and create a good atmosphere for students. Teachers should transfer their emotional factors to students, they promote students to learn actively.

These theories can make teachers understand multimedia well. In short, multimedia-assisted English teaching can help teachers find some good ways of teaching. What's more, it can make the learners have sufficient choice in time and content.

2.2 Characteristics of Multimedia-aided English Teaching

The multimedia-assisted English teaching has two important characteristics: visualization and concretion. They can make students study English well and improve their English skills.[5] They can serve for students better by making boring class become more interesting so that students will study English knowledge better.