Construction of Comprehensive Quality Cultivation System for
Foreign language majors in Colleges and Universities—Based
on the investigation of alumni of School of Foreign Languages,
Wuhan University of Technology

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Abstract. By interviewing 50 outstanding alumni of the School of Foreign Languages of Wuhan University of Technology, the research analyzes the most recognized comprehensive qualities and abilities of foreign language majors by using grounded theory, in order to construct an overall comprehensive quality cultivation system for foreign language majors in universities, including the acquisition and cultivation paths of comprehensive abilities. We can draw the following conclusions from the research. Firstly, the comprehensive ability of foreign language majors can be divided into four aspects including ideological cultivation, physical and mental quality, and vocational skills. Secondly, excellent foreign language majors cultivate their comprehensive quality mainly through association work, interpersonal communication, professional learning and extracurricular practice. Thirdly, in the comprehensive quality cultivation system for foreign language majors, there are four sectors consisting of ideological-cultivation, habit-formation, talented-leading and targeted-education. Taking discipline as the core elements, colleges and universities should combine foreign language with various cultivation elements so as to promote the comprehensive development of foreign languages majors.

1 Introduction

In recent years, especially at the beginning of the 21st century, foreign language majors are featured by promising employment prospects, great development potential and high salary. While the research on foreign language majors’ cultivation flourishing, the research on the cultivation system of foreign language professionals has attracted continuous attention. With the development of the increasingly internationalization and globalization, the national development requires a stronger demand for foreign language talents with high-quality and solid professional knowledge of foreign languages.

Jianjun Cen (1997) believed that among the three aspects of knowledge, ability and quality of foreign language majors, "ability cultivation" was the most important. Only with certain ability can one know how to enrich and update one's knowledge and overcome practical difficulties. Youhua Zhou (2011) uses a multi-dimensional perspective to explore four cultivation paths for interdisciplinary talents, namely disciplinary development, skill practice and self-learning and cross-cultural international communication. She also proposed that interdisciplinary and diversified cultivation was an inevitable trend for the development of foreign language talents. Shou He and Shouren Wang (2022) believed that talents cultivation for foreign languages should start from the construction concept of new liberal arts, adapting to the new situation and reforming the cultivation mode of foreign language students with the goal of "Communicate China stories well".

In order to cultivate excellent foreign language talents in line with the requirements of the epoch, the comprehensive quality cultivation system of foreign language major students should be defined first. From the perspective of dynamic system theory, this research further investigates the comprehensive quality cultivation path of foreign language students with grounded theory to analyze the comprehensive quality and ability recognized by foreign language majors. What’s more, it dynamically analyzes the growth path of outstanding foreign language students to try to construct an overall comprehensive quality cultivation system, including the acquisition and cultivation path of comprehensive ability.

2 Theoretical construction

2.1. Dynamic system theory

Dynamic systems theory is a mathematical paradigm used to study complex systems in the passage of time. Since the 1970s, dynamic system theory has emerged in the fields of mathematics, physics, biology and so on, and has been gradually applied to the...
humanities. The characteristic of dynamic system theory is to emphasize the dynamics of system and the correlation between variables\[9\].

2.2 Comprehensive quality cultivation for foreign language students

Laesen-Freeman (1997)[6] introduced the dynamic systems theory into the field of applied linguistics, which was widely used in the field of second language acquisition. However, there were few researches on the cultivation of comprehensive quality of foreign language students.

The comprehensive quality cultivation of foreign language majors is a complex and dynamic system project. Previous studies mainly investigated the various abilities of foreign language majors, but rarely investigated the cultivation process from a systematic perspective. This research attempts to make outstanding graduates answer the question "How to become an excellent foreign language student", which is often discussed in the society, based on their own campus and social experience. Specifically, we will discuss the following questions.

1. What do graduates consider the core competitiveness of students of foreign language?
2. What are the most recognized abilities of outstanding foreign language majors?
3. What are the characteristics of the dynamic growth trajectory of outstanding foreign language majors?
4. How to cultivate and enhance their competitiveness?

3 Research process

In this study, 50 outstanding alumni of the School of Foreign Languages of Wuhan University of Technology with different graduation years and occupations were collected through semi-structured interviews. The interview questions mainly included: What abilities should be cultivated most in college? What kind of college experience is the most memorable for you? How to improve the competitiveness and cultivate the comprehensive quality of foreign language majors? And so on. After the interview, the collated text was first put into the qualitative analysis software Nvivo 12, and then the grounded theory was used to analyze the text data.

Grounded theory is a qualitative research method developed by Glaser & Strauss(1967)[7], aiming at constructing theories based on grounded data through repeated comparison. In grounded theory, narrative materials are generally encoded at three levels, which is open coding, axial coding, selective coding (Straus & Corbin 1998)[8]. In this study, a three-level code was made for 50 interviewees concerning the most recognized foreign language majors' comprehensive ability, ability cultivation path and their college experience, the number of mentions and times were counted. Then the dynamic description method of the dynamic system theory is used to analyze the dynamic trajectory of outstanding graduates, and to construct the overall comprehensive quality cultivation system for foreign language students.

4 Results and Discussion

4.1 The ability that foreign language major students should cultivate most

In this study, grounded theory was adopted to make a three-level coding of the abilities that 50 interviewees mentioned that foreign language majors should cultivate most (see Table 1 for details).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Coding</th>
<th>Axial Coding</th>
<th>Mentioned Times</th>
<th>Mentioned Number of People</th>
<th>Selective coding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I think the ability of foreign language majors to communicate and understand is crucial; University is actually equivalent to a small society, and one should be good at handling social relationships; Learn to socialize with classmates</td>
<td>Interpersonal communication</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>The abilities that foreign language majors should cultivate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to different majors and fields, such as minor studies; Mastering learning abilities to help learn new knowledge faster and more effectively</td>
<td>Multiple learning and self-learning</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning is the most important thing, it is your professional knowledge; Basic English skills; Oral ability can be strengthened more; To develop the habit of reading in the morning and practicing listening at night</td>
<td>Major learning</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in more social activities; Multiple practical internships; Engage more in school club activities</td>
<td>Practical ability</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain an open mindset; People with strong inner strength are invincible;</td>
<td>Adaptability to stress</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Early exposure to society and planning for one's career; Plan ahead, have a relatively clear plan for future goals, and have a precise understanding of oneself

Career planning

Practice Excel and PPT production more; Exercise and accumulate language and writing skills more; Multiple certifications; Read more professional books and papers to improve one's academic reading, writing, and research abilities

Expanding professional skills

In college, not only should one plan one's living expenses, but also plan one's time allocation well; Distinguish the urgency and importance of matters, and clarify the logic

Coordination and management

Exercise your ability to deliver public speeches with confidence

Expression

Learn to think and reflect more

Independent thinking

To seek a better self and constantly improve oneself; Positive and upward, daring to pursue

Self-improvement

Building confidence and identifying deficiencies in communication

Confidence

Maintain a regular schedule

Maintain physical health

As for the abilities that foreign language majors should have, 17 students mentioned interpersonal and social communication skills for 21 times; 15 people mentioned multiple learning and self-learning ability for 21 times; 16 mentioned professional core competencies, such as basic knowledge of English for 16 times; 8 people mentioned practical ability for 8 times and so on.

According to the Table 1, we know that the top three abilities that foreign language majors should cultivate are communication skills, multiple learning and self-learning ability, and learning in discipline. Youhua Zhou (2011)[2] proposed the road of compound talent cultivation, which also indicates that the cultivation of innovative foreign language talents with solid basic language skills, high discipline accomplishment, solid professional knowledge, strong practical ability, independent learning ability and international vision meets the economic and social development and market demand.

4.2 The competitiveness of foreign language majors

The competitiveness of foreign language majors can also be seen in alumni's expectations (see Table 2 for details).

Table 2. The competitiveness of foreign language majors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Coding</th>
<th>Axial Coding</th>
<th>Mentioned Times</th>
<th>Mentioned Number of People</th>
<th>Selective coding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The advantage is not obvious; A foreign language has no advantage in itself, a language is just a tool</td>
<td>No Obvious Advantage</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>The competitiveness of foreign language majors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who learn foreign languages are good at communicating with others and using linguistics to express themselves and more effectively</td>
<td>Social Capability</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The advantage is that your English will be better than others; An understanding of language and an understanding of the culture behind it</td>
<td>Excellent Language Capability</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language majors generally have an open mind; Closer to the world, wider horizons</td>
<td>Broader International Perspective</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be great to access to more information sources</td>
<td>The ability to access information</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After systematic English learning, cultural deposits will be more profound</td>
<td>Aesthetic Realm &amp; Cultural Deposits</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As can be seen from Table 2, 30% of respondents generally believe that foreign language majors do not have obvious advantages at present. It is suggested that on the basis of learning foreign language well, combining with knowledge of other disciplines, we should become compound talents. Nearly 70% of the respondents believe that interpersonal communication, professional skills and international perspective are the main competitiveness of foreign language majors, which basically coincide with the core competencies mentioned at 4.1. Similarly, several interviewees in this question suggested that foreign language majors should combine with other majors or skills to become interdisciplinary talents.

4.3 The dynamic growth trajectory of outstanding foreign language majors

In order to explore the dynamic growth trajectory of outstanding foreign language majors, the Table 3 shows the most important and impressed experiences of the respondents in college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Coding</th>
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<th>Mentioned Times</th>
<th>Mentioned Number of People</th>
<th>Selective coding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Served as a monitor; Worked in the student union; Working as a reporter and editor in the press corps</td>
<td>Association and student affair experience</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the university, he has a close relationship with his classmates. He is very popular and has acquired many unforgettable friendships. Communicate with strangers, this will be of great help when you enter the society</td>
<td>Interpersonal experience</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think studying in college is very important.</td>
<td>Learning experience</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in a number of French consulate activities and competitions; As a volunteer to introduce the new look of the school to invited alumni to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the school, aster and more effectively</td>
<td>Extracurricular practice experience</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Table 3. The most important and impressed experiences of the respondents.](image-url)

As can be seen from Table 3, student-assert experience, interpersonal communication experience, learning experience and extracurricular practice experience are regarded as important experience for respondents.

For example, M, an alumnus, said that he had held a position in a student organization, which greatly promoted his ability of organization, leadership, communication and coordination in the future. N thinks that the life with roommates, classmates and teachers in college not only brings new experiences, but also certain challenges. The process of correctly handling the relationship between roommates and establishing the relationship between teachers. It is also a good opportunity to make lifelong friends and find a mentor in life. The learning experience includes classroom learning, independent learning after class, participating in various competitions, cooperating with teachers and classmates, etc., which constitute the college life of some alumni.

To sum up, various experiences cultivate different core abilities of foreign language majors, which provides a prerequisite for students to take social positions.

4.4 Construction of the comprehensive quality cultivation system for foreign language majors and the relationship between the elements

The cultivation of excellent foreign language majors is mainly carried out from the aspects of work experience, interpersonal communication experience, learning experience and extracurricular practice experience. In the cultivation path of foreign language students, it is found that the compound talents who "have a solid foundation of language professional skills and interdisciplinary" are more consistent with the development trend of The Times. Therefore, a comprehensive quality cultivation system for foreign language professionals can be established. (see in Picture 1)

![Picture 1. A comprehensive quality cultivation system for foreign language majors.](image-url)

As shown in the system, with foreign language as the core, "Foreign Language +" is used to explore cultivation paths, in order to achieve a high degree of unity between professional and comprehensive ability.

Based on the path of ideological-cultivation, foreign language combines with culture, belief and other elements, relying on theme class meeting, theme Youth
League day, theme Party Day activities, to cultivate and improve students' cultural literacy.

Based on the path of habit-formation to maintain stability, through foreign language combines with mentality, habits and other elements to cultivate students' positive attitude and behavior habits.

Based on the path of talented-leading for long-term development, foreign language combines with discipline, industry, market and other elements, relying on the school's discipline advantages and industry characteristics, to strengthen the cross-integration between majors and between majors, between majors and industries, and effectively improve students' professional competitiveness.

Based on the path of targeted-education, foreign language combines with professional practice, social service, interpersonal communication and other elements, to help students accurately improve their interpersonal communication ability, organization and planning ability, and other comprehensive qualities, enhance the sense of social integration and self-confidence.

5 Conclusion

In this study, based on the analysis of the core competitiveness of foreign language major students, a comprehensive quality cultivation system for foreign language major students was constructed, including the factors of ideological-cultivation, habit-formation, talented-leading and targeted-education. It try to systematically investigate the cultivation of foreign language majors with the idea of dynamic system theory. If colleges and universities can take majors as the core and properly use “Foreign Language +” system to systematically cultivate students, it can not only comprehensively improve the comprehensive quality of students, but also promote the development of the colleges.

References