

# The curriculum of foreign language major in Yunnan universities and the construction of compound talents training system from the perspective of rural revitalization

Mei ZUO, Xin NING, Xiaoyan MO\*

School of Foreign languages, Yuxi Normal University, Yuxi 653100, China \*Corresponding Author: Email address: mxy@yxnu.edu.cn

**Abstract:** With the dual drive of globalization and rural revitalization strategy, foreign language, as a bridge across national boundaries, is becoming more and more important in the growing demand for compound foreign language professionals. Due to its unique geographical location and resource advantages, Yunnan is gradually becoming a new highland for international communication, and the demand for compound English talents is becoming more and more urgent. Thus, as the cradle of training foreign language talents, Yunnan universities shoulder great responsibilities and missions. According to the existing foundation of foreign language major education in Yunnan undergraduate colleges, we must closely combine the regional characteristics and the current social development needs to conduct in-depth examination and adjustment of the curriculum of foreign language major. Not only should we emphasize the training of traditional language skills, but we should also cultivate students' international outlook, cross-cultural communication skills and the ability to solve practical problems. Meanwhile, we should fully consider Yunnan's regional characteristics, integrate local cultural, economic and social factors into teaching, and cultivate compound foreign language talents who have both foreign language professional ability and are familiar with Yunnan's regional characteristics [1]. **Key words:** compound foreign language talents; curriculum; cultivate; system construction

### **1** Introduction

Yunnan is facing unprecedented international development opportunities under the surging tide of globalization and the comprehensive promotion of rural revitalization strategy. Under this background, as a bridge connecting the world and an important tool for international communication, foreign languages are becoming more and more important. With the increasing opening-up and deepening of Yunnan Province in the fields of international economy, trade, culture and tourism, the demand for compound foreign language professionals has also shown a sharp increase. The colleges and universities, as the main positions to train talents in the new era, shoulder the heavy responsibility of meeting the diversified needs of the market. They should adjust their educational strategies in time and deepen the teaching reform, so as to cultivate more compound foreign language professionals with international vision, solid language skills and interdisciplinary ability, and

Copyright © 2024 by author(s) and Frontier Scientific Research Publishing Inc.

http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0).

provide solid talent support for Yunnan's international development and rural revitalization strategy. Through the analysis of the current situation of foreign language education in Yunnan universities, this paper aims to put forward a comprehensive foreign language talent training model suitable for Yunnan, and provide guiding suggestions for the curriculum setting in colleges and universities.

# 2 The necessity of cultivating compound foreign language talents from the perspective of rural revitalization

From the perspective of rural revitalization, the cultivation of foreign language talents in Yunnan Province is of great significance. At first, foreign language talents can promote international exchanges and cooperation, promote the contact and trade between rural areas and overseas, and thus improve the productivity and economic development level of rural areas. Secondly, with the advancement of digital rural construction, the role of foreign language talents in information dissemination and cultural exchange has become increasingly prominent, which is helpful to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas and promote the balanced allocation of public resources. Yunnan province, with its unique geographical location and multicultural background, is rich in non-universal language resources. We can cultivate more high-level and professional foreign language talents by implementing the "foreign language+" compound talent training model. These talents are not only proficient in many languages, but also have interdisciplinary knowledge and skills. They will play an irreplaceable role in promoting the local social and economic development in Yunnan Province and can inject new vitality into rural revitalization. Hence, it is of great strategic significance to strengthen the cultivation of foreign language talents in the rural revitalization strategy. It will better promote the modernization and upgrading of agriculture, the all-round progress of rural areas and the all-round development of farmers through the training and utilizing of these high-quality foreign language talents, and lay a solid foundation for the realization of the strategic goals of rural revitalization.

#### 3 The definition of compound foreign language talents and their important role

In Yunnan province, compound foreign language talents refer to those high-level foreign language talents who not only have profound and solid language skills, but also have extensive professional knowledge and multidisciplinary background. Their foreign language ability is outstanding, and they can communicate with each other fluently and accurately. Moreover, they have diversified professional skills and interdisciplinary knowledge reserves, which enable them to play a key role in education, business, culture, science, technology and other fields. This kind of compound foreign language talents is an important force to realize international exchange and cooperation in Yunnan Province, providing a strong talent support for the implementation of regional economic development, cultural exchange and rural revitalization strategies.

With the promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative and the acceleration of the internationalization process, Yunnan, as the bridgehead of China's exchanges with Southeast Asian and South Asian countries, has significantly increased the demand for compound foreign language talents. This kind of talents is widely demanded not only in traditional fields such as foreign trade, tourism and education, but also has great potential in emerging cross-border e-commerce and international legal services. In Yunnan Province, compound foreign language talents play an important role in rural revitalization, and their definition and demand reflect the high attention to multidisciplinary background, international vision and employment competitiveness in the cultivation of compound talents.

#### 4 Analysis of the current situation of foreign language education in Yunnan universities

Yunnan is located in the southwest border of China, with a unique geographical location and rich national cultural resources. Recently, with the deepening of the national Belt and Road Initiative, Yunnan has become a radiation center facing South Asia and Southeast Asia, and foreign language education is becoming increasingly important. In particular,

the current situation and development trend of foreign language education in colleges and universities, as an important base for cultivating internationalized talents, deserves our in-depth discussion.

4.1 Geographical location and resource advantages

Foreign language education in Yunnan universities has a unique geographical advantage. For example, the authors' school is located in Hongta District, Yuxi City, Yunnan Province, bordering on Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand and Myanmar. This geographical advantage gives it a unique advantage in the education of Southeast Asian and South Asian languages, and allows it to work closely with neighboring countries to deliver more and more excellent compound foreign language talents.

4.2 Policy support and the development of cultural tourism

In order to optimize the business environment and stimulate the vitality of the cultural tourism market, the Yunnan provincial government attaches great importance to the development of the cultural tourism industry. For example, the *Implementation Plan for Tourism Development in Yunnan Province in the 14th Five-Year Plan* and other documents clearly put forward that it is necessary to promote the deep integration of culture and tourism and promote the upgrading and expansion of the tourism consumption market. This kind of policy support provides a broad development space for foreign language professional education in Yunnan universities.

4.3 Cooperate with Southeast Asia and South Asia in running schools

In terms of foreign language education, Yunnan universities actively cooperate with Southeast Asian and South Asian countries in running schools. Taking Yuxi Normal University as an example, the School of Foreign Languages has three undergraduate majors: English, Thai and Burmese, among which both Thai and Burmese have implemented the international cooperation mode. This mode of cooperation not only helps to improve the quality of foreign language education, but also helps to cultivate talents with international vision and intercultural communication ability.

4.4 Courses related to the World Natural Heritage Museum of Chengjiang Fossil Land

As an important cultural venue in Yunnan Province, the World Natural Heritage Museum of Chengjiang Fossil Land has a large collection of precious historical relics and artworks. In order to better promote and inherit Yunnan's local culture, foreign language majors in Yunnan universities can offer courses related to the World Natural Heritage Museum of Chengjiang Fossil Land. For example, elective courses such as "Yunnan History and Culture" can be offered to introduce students to Yunnan's history, culture and ethnic customs through English courses. This will not only help to improve the cultural literacy and intercultural communication ability of foreign language talents, but also help to promote and inherit Yunnan's local culture and spread the voice of China.

#### 5 Optimization path of curriculum setting for foreign language majors in Yunnan universities

5.1 The introduction and integration of interdisciplinary course

The authors' school can innovatively integrate interdisciplinary knowledge such as international trade, law and management into the teaching of foreign language majors, and draw a grand blueprint for students' compound knowledge structure. At the same time, setting up dual-degree and dual-major courses will not only enable students to master foreign languages, but also make them set foot in many fields and become real cross-border elites. The school should plan the curriculum in detail to ensure that every student can systematically appreciate the interdisciplinary wisdom, and work hand in hand with other colleges to develop a unique interdisciplinary course that closely combines professional knowledge with practicality.

5.2 Reinforcement of practical teaching links

Practical teaching is the necessary way to success. Schools need to greatly increase the proportion of internship and

practical courses, encourage students to participate in social practice, internship and project research to exercise their practical operation ability and problem-solving ability. Simultaneously, we should establish a stable internship and social practice platform, and work closely with enterprises and social institutions to pave the way for students to enter the workplace. It is necessary to clearly stipulate the credit requirements for internship and social practice in the curriculum, so as to ensure that every student can thrive in practice. At the same time, we should establish long-term cooperative relations with local enterprises and social institutions, constantly update internship programs, and provide students with diversified practical opportunities.

5.3 Setting up regional culture courses

Regional culture is a treasure in the treasure house of civilization. By offering regional cultural courses such as minority culture and Southeast Asian culture, schools can help students appreciate the unique charm of different cultures and improve their cultural understanding and cross-cultural communication ability. Combining with the characteristics of Yunnan's underground cities, colleges and universities can develop a series of unique cultural courses, such as the profundity of tea culture, the melodious national music and the dancing. At the same time, students can be organized to participate in regional cultural investigation and practical activities, so that they can feel the pulse of culture and deepen their understanding of regional culture.

5.4 Broadening the wide stage of international exchange

International communication is an excellent way to broaden our horizons. Schools can actively carry out exchange and cooperation projects with foreign universities and institutions, such as student exchange, joint training and short-term exchange, so that students can feel the academic atmosphere of different countries and broaden their international horizons. By inviting foreign scholars and experts to give lectures in our school, we can bring the most cutting-edge academic information and international vision to students. At the same time, we will formulate detailed international exchange plans, regularly send students abroad for further study, and receive foreign students to exchange and study in our school.

5.5 Carrying out school-enterprise cooperation program

School-enterprise cooperation is a bridge between school and society [2]. Schools can hire industry experts as tutors to guide students to carry out practice and project research, and improve their practical operation ability and industry adaptability. At the same time, we will establish a school-enterprise cooperation base, hold regular industry lectures and practical activities, and provide students with opportunities to get in touch with cutting-edge information and practical experience in the industry. Schools can sign a school-enterprise cooperation agreement, clarifying the responsibilities and rights of both parties, to jointly formulate cooperation plans and goals, and realize resource sharing and complementary advantages.

Through the discussion on the curriculum of foreign language majors in Yunnan universities and the cultivation of compound foreign language talents, it can be seen that the curriculum of foreign language majors needs to be continuously optimized, focusing on the integration of interdisciplinary knowledge and the cultivation of practical ability. At the same time, international exchange and cooperation, innovation and entrepreneurship education are also important ways to improve students' comprehensive ability. In the future, colleges and universities in Yunnan should continue to explore and innovate the educational model, build a foreign language talent training system suitable for the local characteristics, and provide a solid talent guarantee for the internationalization process and rural revitalization strategy.

#### 6 Conclusion

It is a long-term and complicated task to set up a foreign language curriculum and build a compound talent training system under the background of rural revitalization. It needs our continuous exploration, innovation and improvement, and

the joint efforts of the government, universities, enterprises and all sectors of society. Only in this way can we cultivate more outstanding foreign language talents for rural revitalization and contribute more wisdom and strength to rural prosperity and development. In a word, it is a far-reaching subject to set up foreign language courses and build a compound talent training system in Yunnan universities under the background of rural revitalization. We look forward to continuous exploration and innovation in the future practice, providing a strong talent guarantee for the smooth implementation of the rural revitalization strategy.

# **Conflicts of interest**

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

## References

[1] Cao XY. 2024. Intrinsic requirements and practical approaches to the cultivation of compound foreign language talents in colleges and universities in the new era. *Journal of Sichuan Normal University (Social Science Edition)*, 1-9. https://doi.org/10.13734/j.cnki.1000-5315.

[2] Zhang L. 2017. Exploration of sustainable development of "school-enterprise cooperation" mode. *Occupation*, 12: 22-23.