

## PROBLEMS OF LEARNING ARABIC AMONG STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITIES IN NINGXIA. -TAKE NINGXIA UNIVERSITY AS AN EXAMPLE

Yu Haomiao<sup>1</sup>  
Dr. Saipolbarin Bin Ramli<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Author's details: Yu Haomiao, student in Faculty of Languages and Communication, Sultan Idris Education University

<sup>2</sup>Dr. saipolbarin bin Ramli, The department head of Faculty of Languages and Communication, Sultan Idris Education University, Email: 553584685@qq.com

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**Abstract:** *Ningxia University is the backbone of Arabic teaching in Ningxia, It delivers many excellent Arabic language talents to the society. At the same time, the Arabic language department of Ningxia University also faces some challenges. This paper takes the Arabic language department of Ningxia University as an example to conduct a case study. This paper gives an overview of the overall learning situation of Arabic language students at Ningxia University. The researchers conducted a questionnaire survey of students in Arabic Department of Ningxia University. After done the research works, the researcher found some problems in the process of students in learning Arabic and then analyzed these issues. The researcher also rethought the teaching of Arabic language in Ningxia University on this basis. Finally, based on the actual situation of the students in this department, the researcher made some suggestions and countermeasures. The researcher thinks that the department should start from many aspects to overcome these problems. Such as cultivate students' awareness of self-learning, inspire students' motivation for learning. And improve teaching quality of the Arabic language department of Ningxia University by solving these problems.*

**Keywords:** Arabic, Problems, Education

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### Introduction

Chinese Arabic teaching has a long history. It has experienced a long history of more than 400 years from the religious education in Ming and Qing Dynasties. Until the second half of the 20th century, Arabic began to enter universities gradually. Ningxia is a region where Muslims live in compact communities. In recent years, there have been close contacts with Arab countries in economy, trade, and culture. With the successful holding of the annual "China-Arab States EXPO" in Ningxia, the Arabic language talents in Ningxia are increasingly in short supply, and the government is paying more and more attention to the cultivation of Arabic language talents in universities. Therefore, under the current good situation, as the only university in Ningxia that focuses on national "211 Project" construction, it has many opportunities for Arabic teaching. At the same time, the Arabic language department of Ningxia

University also faces some challenges. Arabic is a language that is harder to learn. Students have problems in learning. The researcher selected some students from the Arabic Language Department of Ningxia to conduct a survey and summarized the problems they encountered in their studies. And then analyzed these issues and came up with strategies to better develop the teaching of the Arabic Language Department of Ningxia University.

### **Problem Statement**

Research goal is limited, the students learning Arabic in China is not too much, this makes the researcher unable to get more effective diaoch in this research.

Not many previous studies in this area. Arabic College of Ningxia University has not been established for long time, before this, few researchers doing a background check for a student learning at the University of Ningxia specially. For the researcher, there is not so much information in the process of doing research.

### **Objective**

- 3.1 Understand the status situation of Arabic language learning in Ningxia University
- 3.2 Explain the level of students' Arabic learning in NingXia university.
- 3.3 Analyze the problems faced by the students of NingXia University and put forward some countermeasures.

### **Literature Review**

The Arabic language has a long history in Ningxia. The previous study about the ways, causes and grounds that Arabic language entered into China. The researcher explained the solution of the problems of teaching Arabic language at Ningxia University. There are many studies about Arabic language education. The researcher benefits a lot from the existing information of those previous studies to supplement this research.

Jin Zhongjie mentioned the development history of Arabic in various schools in Ningxia in his study "The History and Trends of Arabic Teaching in Ningxia". The researcher mentioned the development of Arabic in universities in Ningxia in this paper and made a specific study for Ningxia University.

Dr. Joseph Alsmly mentioned Arabic teaching theory and methods in his study "The Arabic Language and Teaching Methods, both in Theory and in Practice," And the researcher benefits a lot from it. On this basis, a more in-depth study was conducted in conjunction with the actual situation of the Arabic Language Department of Ningxia University.

### **Methodology**

This research used the descriptive analytical method, field method, and inductive approach. The researcher selected 150 people in the Arabic College of Ningxia University to conduct a questionnaire survey and screened out 100 valid answers. And then used SPSS to analyst the data.

### **Results**

#### ***Current status of teaching in Arabic language at Ningxia University***

##### ***Strong Faculty and Many Opportunities to Study Abroad***

Judging from the learning environment, students of the Arab Academy of Ningxia University have a very superior learning environment and opportunities. The Arab College of Ningxia

University was established on September 21, 2011. And it is the only university in Ningxia that has an undergraduate and master degree education in Arabic. At the same time, it is also an international teaching and research institute integrating talent cultivation, scientific research, social services, and decision-making consultation. At present, the college has 349 undergraduates and 15 masters. There are currently 15 full-time teachers, 4 foreign Arabic-speaking teachers, 5 associate professors, 5 doctors, and 10 masters, 95% of whom have overseas study experience.

The college has signed substantive cooperation agreements with eight foreign universities and implemented the “3+1” and “2+1” training programs for undergraduates. Since 2013, the university has sent 374 students to Egypt for the entire year. Suez Canal University, Alexandria University, Yemen University of Science and Technology, and Hassan I University in Morocco.

Thanks to the strong support of the government, the Arabic Language Academy of Ningxia University provides students with an excellent teaching environment. The excellent teaching staff has enabled students to instill good learning methods and ideas in the initial stages of learning Arabic. Secondly, many opportunities for studying abroad also make it possible for many students to go to cultural exchanges in Arab countries. It's very helpful for students to improve their language skills.

***The Overall Learning Atmosphere Is Good, And the Independent Learning Ability Needs to Be Cultivated.***

According to the researcher's survey of students in Arabic College of Ningxia University, most students believe that their learning atmosphere is good. Almost all students can attend class on time and finish assignments done by the teacher. However, the researchers found that after completing the tasks assigned by the teachers, only a part of the students will use their spare time to study Arabic independently. Due to the diversity of curriculum arrangements in Chinese universities, there are less Arabic language lessons every week. Students have a lot of free time to make their own arrangements. Therefore, students' self-learning ability after school hours needs to be strengthened.

***The Problems in the Study of Students in Arabic College of Ningxia University Students Are Weak in Listening***

The researchers conducted a questionnaire survey of the students of the Arabic College of Ningxia University, and asked the students to put forward the weakest link in their study. In a survey of researchers, 77% of students believe that they are not good at listening. This accounts for a very large proportion of the headcount. And the researchers found that only 38% of students would listen to Arabic radio or watch Arabic TV programs during their spare time. This proves that students' initiative in practice listening is not high. Because Arabic has its unique pronunciation features and rhythm, this performance is difficult to improve without adequate listening practice. The researchers found that only a few of these students would listen to Arabic radio and watch Arabic-language television programs. In addition, there were fewer special courses on listening in the usual courses, which led to insufficient training for students listening.

***Students Lack the Initiative to Talk with Foreign Teachers and Their Oral Skills Are Not Fully Exercised***

Researchers found that only 42% of students determined that they often talked with foreign teachers. 44% said they were unsure and the remaining 14% did not talk to foreign teachers at

all. Because there is no environment for students to practice oral communication in China, talking with foreign teachers is the only way for students to improve their oral communication competence. However, most students lack the initiative to talk with foreign teachers, which makes most of the students' oral skills not fully exercised. Secondly, because there are fewer tests of spoken language in tests of university, it leads students to pay less attention to spoken language. If things go on like this, the students' oral communication ability will become weaker and weaker.

#### ***Lower Grade Students Lack the Initiative In The Lessons.***

In the process of teaching foreign languages, class interaction is a very important part, and interaction with the teacher will make the language fully practiced. However, the investigators found that most of the students in the Arab College of Ningxia University were relatively introverted and were not willing to answer questions actively in class, and not willing to ask questions in class. Through the survey, the researchers found that the senior students are more active in the class than the lower grade students in answering the questions raised by teachers. The senior students are more active in answering questions. This results in the lack of communication between teachers and students in the teaching. The teacher cannot accurately grasp the knowledge of the student. The long-term accumulation of problems encountered by the student in learning will affect the mastery of the knowledge in the future time.

#### ***Suggestions on the Development of Arabic Teaching in Ningxia University***

According to the problems existing in the learning process of the students of the Arab College of Ningxia University discovered during the survey, the researcher proposed the following countermeasures.

#### ***Teachers Should Strengthen Dictation Training in Teaching Process***

Dictation is both a test method and an effective teaching method. It is a project that can be used frequently in a foreign language teaching class. Dictation can test students' vocabulary, syntax, listening, comprehension and other aspects and skills. Dictation is a comprehensive language test. Students with strong dictation skills have strong communicative competence in normal language communication. Therefore, teachers should arrange appropriate time for dictation in each lesson. From simple paragraphs to complex chapters, students' vocabulary sensitivity and responsiveness are gradually exercised. Students should collect some Arabic recordings during their spare time and use their leisure time to exercise their sense of language. At the same time, they should find some Arabic language speech materials to listen to words and sentences and strengthen the listening part through a lot of exercises and summaries.

#### ***Exercise the Textual Cohesion***

The textual cohesion is very important in reading. Cultivating, developing and intensifying Arabic textual cohesion on the part of students in teaching writing is indispensable to successful writing. Need to develop students' ability to analyze, understand, summarize, and judge article information After students have mastered enough vocabulary. When students' Arabic knowledge and skills were expanded and grammar awareness was cultivated to a certain degree. In teaching process, teachers should take the chapter as the leading factor. On the one hand, they can strengthen the understanding of the vocabulary and syntactic features of the Arabic language by means of the study of the chapters, deepen the students' understanding of the vocabulary and syntactic features of the Arabic language, further improve the grammar awareness, and achieve the integration of knowledge. On the other hand, students are also

trained to grasp language materials as a whole, improve their ability to understand, analyze, summarize, and logically infer, and enhance their ability to discriminate between Arabic and Chinese. Teachers in the initial stage of teaching should imperceptibly instill chapter awareness in students and help improve student' logical thinking skills.

#### ***Gradually Cultivate Students' Grammatical Consciousness***

The grammar of Arabic is rich in content and the rules are complex. It is both rigorous and flexible. Teachers should explain and analyze complex grammar in the most succinct and clear language in the teaching process, and interpret it with normative, vivid and example sentences which are easy to understand. Teachers should intensify the training for students, broaden the amount of information of the knowledge point, changing training methods frequently, focus on interaction between teacher and students, accelerate training in class, improve the proficiency of students in applying grammar rules to enable students to master grammar in repeated training.

#### ***Strengthen Basic Vocabulary Learning and Exercise***

In the basic stage of studying Arabic, it is very important for students to accumulate vocabulary. At present, due to the limitations of university textbooks, some usages of some words or vocabulary are not involved in textbooks. This requires teachers to prepare lessons seriously and prepare for words that are not involved in the teaching materials, and explain these words into the teaching process, improve students' ability to use basic vocabulary through repeated training.

#### ***Strengthen Learning of National Conditions***

The ultimate goal of foreign language teaching is to develop communication skills of students. It is also for students to communicate in Arabic appropriately. Therefore, students must learn and understand the knowledge of the culture and national conditions of the Arab countries and learn to use the words and expressions correctly with the characteristic of Arab Islamic culture. Teachers should impart knowledge of Arab culture and national conditions to students in the teaching process so that students can better use Arabic to communicate based on their understanding of national conditions and culture.

#### ***Students Should Improve Their Learning Initiative***

Through the survey, the researcher found that the learning initiative of students at the Arab Academy of Ningxia University should be improved. In foreign language classes, interaction with teachers is a particularly important aspect. In the course of teaching, teachers should try to mobilize the enthusiasm of the students as much as possible and designing corresponding teaching activities according to the characteristics of students. Teachers can implement appropriate incentives and penalties to motivate students to participate and encourage students to ask questions in the class or after class, and regularly test students' knowledge about the situation of knowledge acquisition, identify weak areas in students' learning process, and strengthen training. Students should communicate with their teachers more actively. If they do not understand any knowledge point, they should ask the teacher promptly.

#### ***Students Should Develop Autonomous Learning Ability of Themselves.***

As we all know, the university's curriculum is diverse and decentralized, and students have a lot of spare time. If they want to learn Arabic well, simply using the school's schedule of courses is not enough. This requires students to have a strong self-control, make full use of spare time to improve their own learning weaknesses. For example, listen to Arabic language radio, watch

Arabic language videos, read Arabic language extracurricular books, and actively communicate with foreign teachers to improve their ability of speaking.

### **Conclusion**

After the survey, researchers found that the overall status of Arabic teaching in Ningxia University is optimistic. The teachers are excellent, the hardware facilities are perfect, and the chance of studying abroad is a great advantage compared to other schools. But at the same time, problems of the students in learning Arabic should not be ignored. Therefore, Ningxia University needs to focus on developing a more complete teaching system in terms of Arabic language teaching, output more Arabic talents for the society. And students should also be more active in their efforts to improve their own level, check leakage fill a vacancy, in order to truly become a comprehensive talent.

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