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# GIVING FULL PLAY TO THE TEACHING ROLE OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS, TRAIN AND PRACTICE STUDENTS' IDEAS OF ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION

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#### **ABSTRACT**

In the context of the construction of a national ecological civilization, enhancing middle school students' awareness of ecological and environmental protection and enhancing their capacity for ecological protection are the demands of building an ecological society. From the three dimensions of environmental emotions, environmental attitudes and environmental values, this paper conducts an inductive analysis of the textbooks that permeate ecological awareness in Oxford High School English textbooks, points out that the textbooks have played a huge role in the penetration and guidance of ecological concepts, and proposes measures to use textbooks to enhance high school students' ecological awareness, cultivate ecological skills, and form a "three-in-one" ecological civilization education pattern of schools, families, and society.

**Keywords:** Ecological civilization, Ecological and environmental protection, High School English, ecological civilization

#### Introduction

The construction of ecological civilization is a millennium plan related to the sustainable development of the Chinese nation. The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China incorporated the construction of ecological civilization into the five-in-one overall layout of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and clearly proposed to vigorously promote the construction of ecological civilization, strive to build a beautiful China, and realize the sustainable development of the Chinese nation.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Comrade Xi Jinping has made a series of important expositions on the construction of socialist ecological civilization, with lofty intentions, rich connotations, and profound thoughts. Xi Jinping's thoughts on

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ecological civilization have very important guiding significance for us to adhere to and implement the new development concept, promote the formation of green development methods and lifestyles, realize the sustainable development of the Chinese nation, win the great victory in the decisive stage of building a well-off society in all respects, and realize the "two centenary" goals and the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation [1].

#### I. The Status Quo Of China's Ecological Civilization Construction

The new development concept has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the people, and "green" has become a bright business card for China to enter the new era and a powerful driving force for high-quality development. At the same time, the goal of high-quality development puts forward higher requirements for the construction of China's ecological civilization[2]. This year is the first year of the "14th Five-Year Plan". Six departments including the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Central Propaganda Department, the Central Civilization Office, the Ministry of Education, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, and the All-China Women's Federation jointly compiled the "A Beautiful China, I Am an Actor" Action Plan to Raise Citizens' Ecological Civilization Awareness (2021-2025), with the purpose of further implementing the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the National Ecological Environment Protection Conference, promoting and practicing Xi Jinping's thoughts on ecological civilization, continuously strengthening the publicity and education of ecological civilization, guiding the whole society to firmly establish an ecological civilization value concept and code of conduct of "Golden and silver mountains are green mountains", and laying a solid social foundation for building a beautiful China [3].

General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized: "It is necessary to advocate environmental protection and ecological awareness, build an environmental governance system in which the whole society participates, and make ecological and environmental protection thoughts become the mainstream culture in social life[4]." Schools are the main front of publicity and education work, especially in guiding young people to strengthen environmental protection awareness, ecological awareness, and form a correct concept of ecological civilization has unique advantages. Teenagers are in a positive growth and development period in their lives, and their outlook on world, life and values are in the forming stage. At this time, it is appropriate to strengthen the propaganda of ecological civilization and instill the thought of ecological civilization. From the perspective of high school education, it is very necessary to implement ecological civilization awareness education for young people. At present, elementary and middle schools across the country have actively carried out education on themes of ecological civilization and green development. Taking Jiangsu Province as an example, the whole province is actively developing green schools. According to statistics, from 2000 to 2020, the Jiangsu Provincial Department of

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Ecology and Environment, in conjunction with the Provincial Department of Education, named 19 batches of provincial-level green schools (kindergartens), a total of 2,512, accounting for 18.5% of the total number of schools in the province. The establishment of Jiangsu Green Campus is mainly to integrate the concept of ecological civilization into the whole process of education, teaching and campus management, create a strong campus ecological cultural atmosphere, carry out environmental education in depth, popularize ecological civilization and environmental protection laws, regulations and scientific knowledge, and guide teachers and students to exert their subjective initiative , practice diligence, frugality, green, low-carbon, civilized and healthy lifestyles, and gradually establish correct values of ecological civilization [5].

#### II. Analysis On The Infiltration Of Ecological Education In High School English Textbooks

This article found in the practical investigation of the innovation and entrepreneurship project "Research on Environmental Education Factors in Domestic Middle School English Textbooks" that in order to subtly do the work of ecological civilization education, the education department of our province put environmental education and environmental management work on the important agenda, established a set of environmental education work and management mechanism, and strengthened the organizational function of school environmental education. There are already a lot of knowledge content related to ecological civilization and green development in high school textbooks, especially in English teaching. Setting up some courses on ecological civilization construction and green development concepts, making full use of existing teaching materials to organically penetrate environmental education in various disciplines, developing special environmental education courses, compiling and printing special environmental protection teaching materials, building environmental education venues, and launching solid and in-depth environmental education infiltration education and environmental protection practice activities are conducive to cultivating young people to form a positive ecological awareness concept. By implementing the educational goals of environmental emotions, attitudes and values in students' learning environmental science knowledge and cultivating environmental protection skills, the formation of a "three-in-one" ecological civilization education pattern for schools, families, and society, not only effectively enhances the awareness of the ecological environment of the majority of teachers and students, but also affects and drives thousands of households, and has made due contributions to the construction of a resource-saving and environment-friendly society [6]. This paper finds that environmental awareness education has also made a useful attempt in the teaching of high school English textbooks. The following is a selection of some articles on ecological environment teaching in high school English textbooks for interpretation and analysis.

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First, in the M2U2 Project, an Oxford high school textbook, students are required to read a Shangri-La travel brochure, and the team will make a travel brochure to introduce the scenic spots they have visited. The article introduces Shangri-La's traffic, history and unique scenery and weather, and presents a beautiful Shangri-La scene, in which the description of Shangri-La's scenery is vivid and poetic, Such as "Below the mountain, the sunshine reflect on many lakes, making them shine like diamonds against the rich country". There are many similar descriptions, which greatly aroused students' infinite yearning for Shangri-La, their love for nature, and the emotion of harmony between man and nature. In U1 reading, the third English textbook for general high school, the article introduces the diversity of Amazon tropical rain forest species. Students are all impressed by the richness of nature's flora and fauna, which inspires students' emotions to protect tropical rain forests and maintain home habitat. These are all the infiltration of ecological education, which cultivates students' ecological emotions, and is conducive to shaping high school students with ecological awareness and responsibility [7].

Second, in the reading of the Oxford High School English textbook M5U2, there is a TV debate titled economy or environment that we must choose. The theme is novel. Through the proposition and oppostion of the debate, it is discussed whether economic development is first or environmental protection first. The article does not announce which side will win the debate, but readers have their own answers in the proposition and oppostion of the debate. Through this form of debate, students have made it clear that economic development must be carried out under the premise of environmental protection, and the community with a shared future for mankind can move towards a brighter future. When students find the proposition and oppostion and clarify the arguments of both sides, it is the process of forming ecological value orientation[7].

Third, in the Oxford high school textbook M5U2Project, students should read two articles, Protect the Yangze River and Climate change and a low-carbon life, and make a report on environmental protection. In the Integrated skills section of the third volume of general high school English textbooks, students are required to read a news report entitled "Human Activities Cause Increasing Harm To Animals". And the Extended reading section of this section focuses on a text of a TV program that discusses urban pollution. These articles and activities face the current serious environmental problems, expose the truth, and discuss specific measures to solve environmental problems. They not only find solutions from government policies, but also discuss the due meaning of factories, communities, and individuals in environmental protection. All these have taught high school students that it is their bounden duty to protect the environment[8].

It can be seen from the above that giving full play to the role of middle school textbooks in building morality is essential to strengthening the education of ecological civilization for middle school students. It is beneficial to stimulate the enthusiasm of young people to love nature, feel

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life, and perceive growth, and cultivate their qualities of scientific inquiry and learning to observe. It is conducive to further enhancing the awareness of ecological civilization of Chinese citizens, promoting the harmonious coexistence of man and nature, and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

# III. Implementation Suggestions For Exerting The Ecological Educational Function Of Textbooks

Xi Jinping's thoughts on ecological civilization should be integrated into middle school education, and the vivid practice of green development should be incorporated into middle school textbooks, so that young people at the beginning of life can cultivate the psychological, emotional, and self-consciousness of environmental protection, so as to form a deep humanistic feelings and sow the ideological seeds of ecological civilization.

The first point is to integrate the science of ecological civilization education into teaching materials. Middle school education must carefully implement Xi Jinping's thoughts on ecological civilization from the overall perspective of the development of the party and the country, integrate quality education and ecological civilization education for middle school students, publicize the basic national policy of resource conservation and environmental protection, implement sustainable development, build a resource-saving and environment-friendly society, and make building a beautiful China a common vision. The Ministry of Education should pay attention to grading teaching, combining the content and requirements of teaching materials at various stages, selecting materials that are easy to be recognized by students and embodying Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thoughts and incorporating them into the teaching materials, proceeding from the shallow to the deep, from the outside to the inside, and step by step to promote ecological civilization education. It is recommended to add materials related to ecological and environmental factors in high English textbooks, such as Dujiangyan Water Conservancy Project, Jiaoyulu Lankao Desert Control, Yucun Green Development in Anji County, Zhejiang Province, garbage classification, protection of the Yangtze River, and other fresh cases that reflect the harmonious coexistence of man and nature. Tell the story of China's environmental protection well, publicize the actions of China's environmental protection such as the strict ecological environmental protection system and the construction of a community of human destiny, and encourage schools to become cradles of green talents, publicity teams and planters that disseminate green concepts. Advocate horizontal exchanges, sharing of environmental education resources, and regional environmental education cooperation between schools and regions, and learn from each other and promote each other to jointly improve the overall level of environmental education.

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The second point is to focus on the combination of classroom education and practical education. Adhere to the combination of theory and practice, organize the school to compile distinctive English textbooks, open an English green education network, organize environmental education special research, conduct environmental protection lectures, issue environmental protection proposals, learn to sing environmental protection songs, write and perform a series of environmental education practice activities such as English environmental protection textbook plays. Organize students to visit environmental education bases, carry out social practice activities, and experience the environmental protection process and practical results by using major time nodes such as "March 12th Arbor Day", "March 21st World Forest Day", "April 22nd World Earth Day", "June 5th World Environment Day", "June 25th China Land Day", "September 16 International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer" and the anniversary of major events. General Secretary Xi Jinping said to young students when participating in voluntary tree planting activities in the capital," I am very happy to plant trees with my classmates at this time of the year. I hope that the students will establish the awareness of protecting the environment from an early age. They must not only understand the truth, but also be the practitioners of the truth, actively cultivate the labor awareness and labor ability, and use their own hands to sow the motherland and beautify the world we live together." Only by practicing the concept of environmental protection with practical actions and experiencing the process and results first-hand can people strengthen their consciousness of thinking and action.

The third point is to focus on introducing excellent traditional culture into modern classrooms. Culture is an important part of a country's soft power, and the spread and promotion of Chinese culture is an important part of my country's foreign strategy. Therefore, English education must strengthen cultural self-confidence and introduce the ecological civilization ideology in the traditional Chinese culture into modern education. As early as in the Northern Song Dynasty, Sima Guang mentioned the idea of "taking the degree with degree and using it with restraint" in "Zi Zhi Tong Jian". In "Xunzi Tianlun", there are the expositions of "Heaven's movement is permanence" and "Should be governed by auspiciousness". To this day, the thoughts of the ancients are still of great practical guiding significance for green ecological and environmental protection awareness and practical activities. Therefore, the English education in middle schools should vigorously publicize and fully demonstrate the excellent traditional culture of environmental protection in the country, learn from history, encourage middle school students to perceive the inheritance of ecological civilization of the ancestors from traditional culture, inspire students' sense of national pride and awareness of environmental protection, and write a bright future for the harmonious development of man and nature.

The author believes that by playing the subtle role of middle school textbooks and thoroughly implementing General Secretary Jinping's thoughts on ecological civilization, people will

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definitely be able to cultivate socialist successors with the spirit of the new era and building a beautiful country.

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