

*The Use of Career Awareness Comic Book to Enhance English Language Learning for Primary School Students in the People's Republic of China*

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**Abstract**

In China, primary school serves as the initial phase of English instruction and career awareness education. Numerous issues in contemporary English language instruction have resulted in the ineffectiveness of English acquisition. Insufficient career awareness education will result in pupils' deficiency in life goal planning. This research enhances career awareness and English education while promoting English instruction through comic book. The research aimed to: 1) compare the learning achievement scores after using the career awareness comic book. 2) Identify the rate of effectiveness after using the career awareness comic book. The population consisted of 76 students of the 5th grade students of a primary school. Use English for the career awareness comic book. The statistics used to analyze and interpret the data included mean ( $\bar{X}$ ), standard deviation (S.D.), t-test, and effectiveness index. The research result found that 1) the paired t-test of pre-test and post-test showed that there were differences at the statistical significance level of 0.05 ( $t=42.10$ ,  $p=0.00$ ). The results also revealed that the effectiveness index was .2205; in other words, the students had higher post-test scores of 22.05 percent of cognitive score improvement.

Keywords: Career Awareness, Comic Book, English Language Learning, English Learning Achieve Improvement

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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 Research Background**

Education is the foundation for talent cultivation and social development. In the present day, to cultivate innovative and multi-skilled talent who are able to adapt to global trade, continuous reform of the education system is needed, as well as the promotion of industry-education integration to train technological talent with international communication skills. English plays an important role in international exchange and cooperation, and the development of English education from a minority group's vocational training to universal education has become an important national strategy. However, for many primary school students, there are important difficulties and challenges in learning English well. Comic books, as a form of entertainment media, have attracted the attention of some readers with their strong visual impact and exaggerated artistic editing techniques (Wang & Zhang, 2023). This study focuses on the entertainment value of comic books and aims to explore new ways to promote English learning among primary school students.

## **1.2 Problem of Population**

The difficulties and challenges faced by primary school students in learning English are varied. First, students have a serious exam-oriented education mentality, treating entrance exams as the main purpose of English learning (Hao, 2020). Second, Teachers' teaching strategies are outdated, the teaching content is monotonous, and They attempt to establish a teacher-centered knowledge-providing system. Third, students have not mastered the correct learning methods (Liu, 2021), and the rote learning method hinders students' autonomy in learning English. Fourth, primary School students lack the purpose and interest in learning English. Teachers lack interaction in teaching, and English education is not linked with personal experience. Fifth, this strong self-esteem forces them to avoid making mistakes, and when they do, they flinch. So in English learning, they are ashamed to talk with adults, especially with teachers.

## **1.3 Solution to Solve the Problems**

At present, English teaching is undergoing continuous reform and innovation to make its teaching content closer to people's lives and the needs of social development. Based on the exploration of Wang Xiangping and other scholars on the ladder-style cultivation of students' career awareness (Wang et al., 2022), as well as the successful application of comic books in other subjects (Lin, 2023). This study attempts to design a vocational awareness comic book. based on vocational storylines for English teaching. By experimenting with Fifth-grade students from a primary school, this paper explores whether a career awareness comic book can promote primary school English learning.

## **1.4 Research Questions**

This paper focuses on the following questions:

- 1) Can a career awareness comic book promote English learning for primary school students?
- 2) How effective are career awareness comic book in influencing the English learning of primary school students?

## 1.5 Research Objectives

- 1) To compare the learning achievement scores after using the career awareness comic book.
- 2) To identify about the rate of effectiveness after using the career awareness comic book.

## 2. Research Methods

The research population includes 200 Grade 5 students, the sample group includes 76 Grade 5 students in a primary school. The training time was two months. A questionnaire survey was conducted to conduct pre-training and post-training tests.

### 2.1 Research Design

This study explores the application of the career awareness comic book in English teaching through review, visit observation, material development, classroom experiments, and questionnaire surveys. To reflect the impact of the career awareness comic book on the English learning of primary school students, this study conducted experimental research using quantitative data analysis methods: the survey before and after the experiment formed a quantitative analysis model, namely pre-test ( $O_1$ ), experimental (X), and post-test ( $O_2$ ). The data sources for analyzing the effectiveness of the experimental activities are the tests before and after the experiment. The pre and post-test were conducted through questionnaire surveys of 76 fifth-grade students.

Pre-test	Activities	Post-test
$O_1$	X	$O_2$

- $O_1$  Measurement of pre-test score
- X Improving primary school students' English learning through the use of vocational awareness comic book
- $O_2$  Measurement of post-test score

### 2.2 Research Instrument Development

This study divides the design of comic book content into four parts. The first part is about asking for directions, where students interact with traffic police, gain a basic understanding of urban architecture, and become familiar with the working environment of doctors through ambulances and hospitals. The second part is about seeking medical care. Students participate in situational experiences to deepen their understanding of doctors while also developing their communication skills and ability to express requests for help. The third part is our teachers, where students engage in dialogues and stories of teachers' daily lives to enhance their understanding of the teacher's role and develop their communication skills and abilities of the world around them. The fourth part is about the story of famous scientist Yuan Longping's research on hybrid rice, which allows students to learn about the spirit of scientific exploration and the awareness of resource conservation. The comic book page design size is 15CM\*20CM, convenient for students to carry and read.



Figure 1: The Example of Career Awareness Comic Book Design

### 2.3 Implementation Period

The 76 students were divided into two classes, with 38 students in each class. Before the experiment, both classes were given an English test, and both groups were given the same questionnaire. At the beginning of the experiment, a career awareness comic book was used to teach English in two classes for 45 minutes per class, 3 classes per week for 2 months. The teacher dictated 10 words every week. The first 10 minutes of each class are for students' previews and one-on-one Q&A; the next 30 minutes are for teachers' lectures and interactions; and the last 5 minutes are for students' dialogue performances and discussions. If students discuss questions in the last 5 minutes of class, the teacher will answer them one-on-one in the first 10 minutes of the next class. Observe students every two weeks to learn about their classroom experience and to improve the classroom teaching plan. After the completion of the experimental teaching tasks, two classes of students conducted a questionnaire survey. During the experiment, the researcher will control the experimental conditions precisely, ensure the consistency of the experimental environment, teaching content, and teaching method, so as to reduce the interference factors in the experiment. The experimental process is shown in the following figures.



Figure 2: Implement the Teaching Process



Figure 3: Interview Observation



Figure 4: Pre-test Process

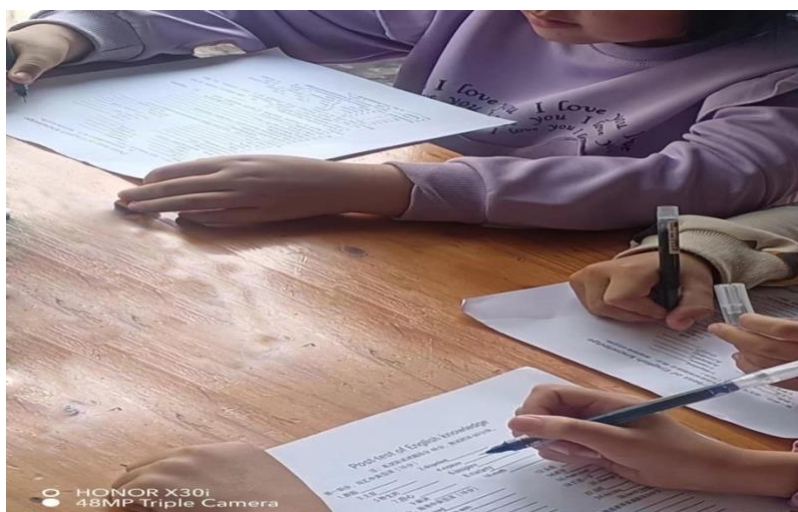


Figure 5: Post-test Process

**2.4 Data Collection:** Multiple methods are used for data collection, including observation visits, questionnaire surveys, etc., to obtain comprehensive research.

**2.5 Data Analysis Method:** Quantitative Data Analysis: Use statistical methods to analyze quantitative data on the promotion effect of career awareness comic book on English learning.

### 3. Research Results

1) Compare the learning achievement scores after using the career awareness comic book.

Table 1: Paired Samples t-Test of the Pre-test and Post-test in Experimental Class

Items	Number of students	Difference of Mean	Std.	Std error of Mean	t-Test	df	Sig. (two-tails)
Post-test	76	6.05	1.25	0.14	42.10	75	0.00
Pre-test							

From Table 1, the paired t test of pre-test and post-test showed that there were differences at the statistical significance level of 0.05 ( $t=42.10$ ,  $p=0.00$ ), and the mean difference between the two tests was 6.05. This shows that the use of a career awareness comic book teaching model in a primary school grade 5 can indeed promote students' English learning.

2) Identify the rate of effectiveness after using the career awareness comic book.

Table 2: Statistical Table of the Results of Students' Post-test Results

Number of students	Total	P <sub>2</sub>	P <sub>1</sub>	Effectiveness index
76	3648	2022	1562	0.2205

P<sub>1</sub> = Pre-test

P<sub>2</sub> = Post-test

Total = Number of students × Total question score

From Table 2, the effectiveness index calculated from the above formula is 0.2205, which shows that the students had higher post-test scores of 22.05 percent of cognitive score improvement.

### Conclusion

Through experimental teaching tests, it has been shown that the teaching method of the career awareness comic book is an interesting and practical teaching model that is close to students' real lives. It is very effective in cultivating students' interest and autonomy, promoting their English learning, and providing them with relevant professional knowledge experience in the process of learning English. Through experimental observation, it was found that some students are accustomed to reading career awareness comic book alone after class, so their

English learning is no longer limited to the classroom. Proper use of career awareness comic book with professional awareness can improve students' English learning outcomes. Some interviewees expressed that she is no longer afraid of expressing herself improperly and has confidence in learning English well.

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