



Instrumental Motivation And CET Band 4

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Abstract

The paper, inspired by Gardner and his associates' research on instrumental motivation, mainly discusses what kind of effect it will have on students' performances, with particular reference to CET Band 4 in China. CET Band 4 stands for College English Test Band 4, the certificate of which used to be essential to the awarding of bachelor's degree in China before 2006. Driven by this strong instrumental motivation, the students tend to be willing to put more efforts and time into the study of vocabulary, grammar, listening, reading etc. Then the paper analyses the negative backwash of CET and describes the features of the students motivated by it. In the year 2006, the link between the certificate of passing CET Band 4 and bachelor's degree was cut off. This consequently has influenced instrumental motivation in English learning. Students' motivation went down to a large extent. But some desirable results appeared. English teachers changed their syllabus, courses and teaching approaches, while students' English are improved in a more balanced way and they are more willing to participate in classroom activities. The most important thing is that their motivation has no significant drop after they pass the CET-4. It can be explained by their increased intrinsic motivation during the two years of English learning. The paper finally discusses what language teachers can do to enhance motivation.