**Content summary of 6th Classic Germany Philosophy Lecture**

**Department of Philosophy, Huazhong Science and Technology University**

**Chair Professor：**Otfried Höffe

**Date：**20th，October ,2016

**Course Title：**Kant’s theory of education

**Presenter**:Li Yang, Chen Junquan

**Section 1: two kinds of educational art**

The art of education is either mechanical, or judicious. The former arises mechanically only on those chance occasions when we learn by experience whether something is harmful or useful to people, while the latter is always based on some carefully designed plan. All educational art which arises merely mechanically must carry with it many mistakes and defects, so it is necessary for it to be transformed into science.

**Section 2: one principle and two obstacles**

One important principle of the art of education is this: children should be educated not only with regard to the present but rather for a better condition of human species that might be possible in the future. But its realization always encounter two obstacles: 1) Parents usually care only that their children get on well in the world, and 2)princes regard their subjects merely as instruments for their own designs.

**Section 3: a plan of education made in a cosmopolitan manner**

Apart from the realistic interests of one’s own home or state, educators should also be concerned with the best for word and the perfection to which humanity is destined. And the best for world is by no means such an idea which can be harmful to us in our best private condition.

**Section 4: the education of the princes**

The better condition of the world is supposed to come either from the princes, or from the subject. If it is to be brought about by the princes, then the education of the princes must first become better. Because experience teaches that the princes first of all have not so much the best for the world in mind but rather the well-being of their state, so that they may reach their own goal.

**Section 5: the set-up of the school**

If the better condition of the world should be brought by the subjects, then the school education will be core problem. And the set-up of the schools should depend entirely on the judgment of the most enlightened experts who take an interest in the best world and who capable of conceiving the idea of a future improved condition.

**Section 6: four dimensions of education**

There are four different goals that education should achieve: discipline, culture, civilization and moralization.1)*discipline* is meant to prevent animality from doing damage to humanity, or to change the animality of humanity as professor Höffe said; 2)*cultivating* means education of skills; 3)*civilizing* is meant to acquire manners、good behavior and be prudent to adapt to the society; 4)*moralization is concerned with* acquiring the disposition to choose nothing but good ends.

**Section 7: two stages of education**

Kant divides the stage of education into two parts: negative and positive. The stage of negative formation is the discipline which merely prevents errors, positive formation that is instruction and guidance. In the first stage, children must show passive obedience, the second, they are allowed to make use of reflection and freedom.

**Section 8: two approaches of education**

The approach of education is either private or public. Public education unites both instruction and moral formation, it aims at promoting a good privite education as well as perfecting the domestic education. Privite education is taken care of either by parents or by tutors, what counts is that parents should hand over their entire authority to the tutor. Kant discovered that public education is more advantageous than private, both with respect to skillfulness and character of a citizen.

**Section 9: the biggest problem of education**

The biggest problem is how do i cultivate freedom under lawful contraint. Kant Takes that one shall accustom the pupil to tolerate a constraint of his freedom, and lead him to make good use of his freedom at the same time.

**Section 10: four suggestions to be observed**

1)The child must be allowed to be free in all matters unless it is in the way of other’s freedom; 2)the child can only reach his goals by letting others also reach theirs; 3)one must prove to it that restraint is put on it in order that it be led to use of its own freedom; 4)offer sex knowledge in advance in order to prevent vice before marriage